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Tougher furniture curbs after foam fire deaths



Mr Tony Lloyd: Mother's death linked to polyurethane foam

By David Sapsed
The Government is to impose the world's toughest controls on the use of polyurethane foam in furniture after the deaths by fire of 10 children, all aged under eight, in the first five days of this year.

Three of the children died in their beds yesterday as dense, toxic fumes filled their home in Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

Mr Francis Maude, Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said last night that proposed legislation would make it a criminal offence to breach tough new safety standards introduced later this year.

However, campaigners said that even the new regulations would fail to save lives unless there was a complete ban on the foam.

"If the code of practice proposed by the Government last year remains unchanged, dangerous materials will still be used and the new laws will be almost useless", Mr Tony Blair, Opposition spokesman on consumer affairs, said.

Mr Maude said: "The lessons from these tragic fires will be learned. We already lead the world in standards of fire safety in furniture and we are going to toughen these even further."

"Nobody, however, should believe that this problem is simply going to go away. Probably 50 million Britons live in homes where polyurethane is used and it is going to take 20 or 30 years to get rid of it."

Last year, the Department of Trade and Industry put out a

consultation document on a new code of practice for the use of polyurethane foam, which, within minutes of catching alight, can burn at 1,000 deg C - hot enough to set metal alight - and which produces hydrogen cyanide fumes, carbon monoxide and hydrochloric acid.

Mr Bob Graham, the assistant chief fire officer of Greater Manchester, who has been leading the fight for tougher legislation, agreed with Mr Blair that if the Government simply followed the proposals made in the consultation paper, the resulting laws would be of no value.

He said that all organizations, except furniture manufacturers, wanted fire-retardant foam and non-ignitable covers to be introduced in all furniture over the

next three years. Last year's proposals would allow the continued use of high-resilience foam.

After yesterday's Stevenage blaze, another senior fire officer bitterly criticized the use of the foam and called for restrictions on its use.

"While manufacturers keep on producing furniture containing these products, people will continue to buy them. We can educate people, but while the stuff is on the market, there are going to be deaths of this sort", Mr Michael Howell, Hertfordshire's divisional fire officer, said.

Five officers in Manchester issued similar warnings on the foam when three young sisters died in their home-filled living room on Sunday. On New Year's Day, four children and their father

died in a fire at their home in Merthyr Tydfil, mid-Glamorgan.

It was also disclosed yesterday that the mother of Mr Tony Lloyd, the Labour MP who has been leading a Commons campaign against the use of foam in furniture, died in her Manchester home on Monday and that "polyurethane foam furnishings were involved".

Mr Lloyd, MP for Salford, put forward a private member's Bill last year calling for the use of foam to be regulated. Shortly before Christmas, more than 200 MPs signed a motion protesting at a proposal in the consultation paper to allow high-resilience polyurethane to be used in mattresses and covers for a further three years.

Mr Blair, who wrote to Mr

Maude a month ago warning of the dangers of the foam and emphasizing the need for much tougher legislation, said this year's deaths only illustrated the inherent dangers in allowing foam to be sold.

The minister said yesterday that experts were divided on the flammability of high-resilience polyurethane.

"I want the new standards to be effective for at least 10 years, so we have got to get it right", he said.

At least two British companies are preparing to use "combustion-modified" foams that have few of the fire and toxicity risks of conventional polyurethane. Three-piece sofas with the new substance will cost an additional £20-£50.

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Intervention triggers recovery

Halt in dollar slide boosts market prices

Worldwide intervention to stabilize the dollar sent the United States currency surging against all major world currencies yesterday.

The moves, which included support from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for the second day running, were seen by world markets as the signal they have been waiting for that the slide in the dollar has gone far enough, and has reached a level which will be stoutly defended.

However, the dollar's troubles are not yet over, as the underlying cause of the decline which has halved the world value of the US currency in just three years are still unresolved.

But for the moment, markets are convinced that the cat and mouse game with the authorities is being won by the central banks, and that was enough to send stock market prices sharply higher around the world.

In London, the FT-SE 100 share index rose 42.1 to 1789.6 while in New York the Dow Jones industrial average followed through its 76 point increase on Monday with an early gain of 36 points.

London stock market sentiment was helped by govern-

ment statistics showing a rise in the official reserves by \$3.74 billion (£1.97 billion) last month, substantially more than the market had been expecting and more than doubling Britain's foreign currency reserves over the year to \$44.3 billion.

But the major impact on the market was the skilful and concerted intervention in the currency markets, bearing out

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reports that a price had been set for the dollar at which the whole apparatus of central bank buying would be brought into play.

Despite the strong state of British foreign currency reserves, the pound lost 4.5 cents against the dollar to close at \$1.8278 while the trade weighted sterling index fell 0.5 to 75.4.

The dollar was bought by both the Bundesbank and the Bank of Japan, and the intervention buying triggered purchases of dollars in the market for genuine trading reasons, as corporate treasurers and trading bankers warmed to the idea that the dollar might never be so cheap again.

But the central banks of Italy, Switzerland and Austria all moved into the market, while the Bank of France cut its money market intervention rate, which is the key to all other French market rates, from 7.75 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

The central banks were trying to boost the dollar rather than just stop its fall as they used to do, and they have been successful so far by sparking heavy covering of short dollar positions which were created last month, according to dealers.

One senior foreign exchange

dealer at a US bank said: "The Fed is becoming more open about its intervention, and it did not mind showing people at which point it intervened." Dealers said the Fed bought dollars at 1.6130 marks.

Since early morning Tokyo trading on Monday when the dollar hit postwar lows of 120.45 yen and 1.5625 marks, short covering kept boosting the dollar to highs around 1.6325/35 and 127.40/50 until the White House comments came out.

The dollar has returned to pre-Christmas levels and could recover to those in early December, when the dollar was 1.65 marks and 130 yen, one senior dealer said.

But, he added, customers such as US firms are still reluctant to buy dollars or to cover their short positions.

The mood of optimism in the stock markets was heightened by the decision in Tokyo to allow Japanese insurance companies to increase the proportion of their funds allowed to be invested in shares from 3 per cent to 5 per cent.

Investors in Tokyo were expected to embark on a massive spending spree when trading resumed at Jan GMT today with a number of leading London brokers forecasting a rise of at least 300 points in the Nikkei Dow Jones industrial average.

Other dealers were claiming last night that the index could rise by up to 1,000 points enabling world stock markets to extend their strong new year rally.

Dealers at Yamichi, the Japanese security house, claim it could inject an extra £5 billion into the Tokyo stock market driving share prices sharply higher. It could also have a knock-on effect on the world's other leading markets.



A student waves a Palestinian flag under a street sign covered with pictures of Mr Yasir Arafat, the PLO leader, during a demonstration at Bir Zeit in the West Bank yesterday.

Israel and UK work to calm Mellor storm

From Ian Murray in Jerusalem and Andrew McEwen in London

Israel and Britain worked together yesterday to calm the diplomatic storm raised by Mr David Mellor's criticisms of the Israeli Government over conditions in Gaza's refugee camps.

But the Foreign Office in London made it clear that his remarks were fully consistent with British Government policy, and discouraged speculation that he had spoken out of turn.

A meeting between Mr Mellor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister of Israel, produced a show of the underlying strength of relations between the two countries, instead of the plain speaking that had been expected.

The one discordant note came from President Herzog who said that while Mr Mellor was rightly appalled by conditions in the refugee camps, the blame did not lie with Israel.

The President said that he had become "accustomed to the cynicism and the hypocrisy in international life. But surely there are limits".

Mr Mellor spent a long morning and lunchtime in what was officially described as "a warm and positive atmosphere", discussing a whole range of Middle East problems with senior Israeli Foreign Ministry officials.

He then went on to have "a thoroughly positive discussion" lasting 50 minutes with Mr Shamir.

Although "the affair of the colonel", as it has become known in Israel, was raised in passing by the officials, it was ignored by Mr Shamir.

Mr Mellor described his meeting with the Prime Min-

ister - "a very courteous chap" - as "very useful and constructive".

Mr Mellor roused Israeli tempers on Monday when he challenged an army officer in a Gaza refugee camp about the arrest of a boy for stone-throwing, after the Minister sternly and publicly criticized Israel for its policies in the occupied territories.

The shooting and killing yesterday of yet another Palestinian by Israeli troops in

Washington - President Mubarak of Egypt will make a state visit to Washington on January 28, the White House announced yesterday (Michael Blyden writes). He will hold talks with President Reagan on the Middle East situation and the Palestinian demonstrations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

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the Gaza Strip helped to put Mr Mellor's remarks into a more sombre context.

The man was killed during a demonstration which started from the home of one of the nine people against whom deportation orders have just been issued.

In a violent clash with the Army, eight other Palestinians were wounded as well as five Israeli soldiers.

The incident added to the urgency of the message that Mr Mellor had very deliberately and carefully delivered in the refugee camp.

Some criticism of Mr Mellor emerged from Mr Ariel Sharon, the conservative Trade and Industry Minister, who

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BP deadline

BP investors have until 3 pm today to decide whether to accept the Bank of England's offer to buy their partly paid shares for 70p. Page 17

Chief quits

Mr Stafford Heginbotham, the chairman of Bradford City, who steered the club through the financial crisis of the 1980s, in which 56 people died, has resigned because of ill health. Page 37

Portfolio

● The accumulated daily total of £16,000 in The Times Portfolio Gold competition - four times the usual amount because there were no winners for several days - was shared yesterday by three readers. Details, page 3. ● Portfolio list, page 23.

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Police offer big reward

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Reporter

West Midlands police yesterday took the rare step of offering a reward of up to £10,000 from their own budget for help in catching the burglar who murdered two elderly Birmingham spinners in their corner shop.

Other police forces have launched reward offers in the past but the West Midlands offer is one of the largest amounts that police themselves have put forward.

Rewards are usually raised by private individuals, civil organisations or insurance companies for information leading to a conviction. But

Thatcher may visit S Africa

From Robin Oakley, Nairobi

Mrs Margaret Thatcher defied black African opinion yesterday, telling President Moi of Kenya in private talks that she was not ruling out a trip to South Africa.

The Prime Minister told him that the time was not yet ripe, but if she felt it would hasten the end of apartheid, she was willing to go.

Earlier, visiting Masai people south of Nairobi, Mrs Thatcher was named "Big Mama Thatcher" by local women in a welcoming song. It appears that she was especially welcome because she brought rain with her.

"Big Mama", page 6

Judge quits after security dispute

By John Cooney

The Lord Chancellor has accepted the resignation of a judge who will step down on Friday after a dispute with the Royal Ulster Constabulary over his personal protection.

Mr Andrew Donaldson, aged 47, submitted his resignation to Lord Mackay of Clashfern during the Chancellor's visit to Belfast shortly before Christmas.

Mr Donaldson, a judge of the Northern Ireland county court bench since April 1983, yesterday issued a statement explaining his resignation.

It said: "I have been obliged to take this step mainly because of regrettable and persistent inadequacies in my security."

Mr Donaldson's brief statement provoked an immediate reply from the RUC, which insisted that security was not the sole ground for Mr Donaldson's resignation and it regretted the terms of the statement.

"The RUC rejects the criticism and the simplification of the difficult and complicated matter of personal security against terrorist threat", the RUC said.

"It is the established policy of the RUC to discuss personal security in public. To do so is in itself a breach of security."

Mr Donaldson, himself a former member of the force, dismissed the RUC response as "evasive and deceitful".

General Motors heralds the dawn of its revival

From Charles Bremner, New York

A florid-faced man with the high-pitched tone of a provincial preacher gripped the lectern in the huge Waldorf Astoria ballroom yesterday and tried to persuade a jaded congregation that, once again, General Motors was ready to lead the world.

Mr Roger Smith, the unlikely looking chairman of the world's biggest industrial corporation, was taking something of a risk.

General Motors, the company that once willed the night of a near sovereign state, is in trouble. But its leaders think that the bad publicity is unjustified, so they decided to win over hearts and minds with a multi-



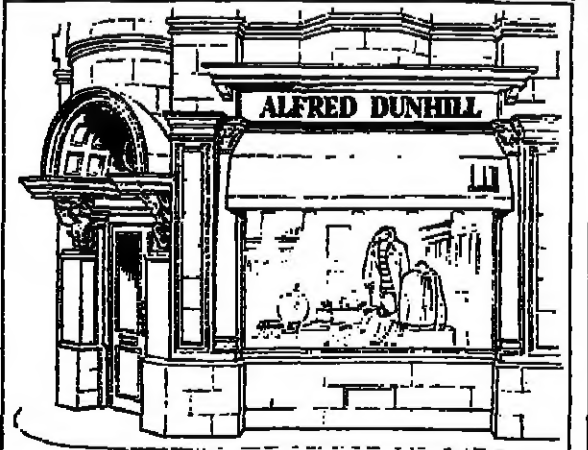
million dollar extravaganza in New York's ritziest hotel.

Watched by cohorts of top executives in sober corporate suits, as well as dozens of steady security men, Mr Smith presented a 120-screen video spectacular on the new-look GM and sang the praises of the Pontiac, Oldsmobile, Chevrolet, Buick and Cadillac parked on the deep carpet.

In the near mystical language of corporate speak, he said that GM had gone through "monumental change" and was once again making cars that people want to buy.

"I believe that there is a tidal wave of team-work building up in GM nowadays. It's an all-for-one and a one-for-all spirit that's just beautiful to see... We have proof positive that

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Ex-MI6 officers helped with book

Former members of MI6 helped to supply information for a new book about a past head of the secret service, Major General Sir Stewart Menzies, which claims that the traitor Kim Philby was known to be a Soviet spy before he fled to Moscow and was manipulated by British intelligence for its own purposes.

The book, *The Secret Servant, the Life of Sir Stewart Menzies*, by Mr Anthony Cave Brown, is due to be published by Michael Joseph in July, after publication in the United States. Yesterday the publishers confirmed that Mr Cave Brown had talked to a number of Sir Stewart's associates.

● The Scottish Lord Advocate, Lord Cameron of Lochroom, was last night considering whether to seek an interim interdict banning *The Scotsman* newspaper from publishing more extracts from *Inside Intelligence*, the memoirs of Mr Anthony Cave Brown, the former intelligence officer. The High Court in London on Saturday banned *The Sunday Times* and *The Observer* from printing material deriving from Mr Cavendish's time in the security service.

Prostitute Soccer pensions charges

Prostitutes infected with Aids should be given a state pension and encouraged to "retire" to help to stop the spread of the disease, a senior doctor has suggested.

That would make financial sense if it led to fewer Aids patients needing expensive NHS treatment. Dr Frank Hull, senior lecturer in general practice at Birmingham University, said in the medical journal *The Physician*.

"We have to do everything in our power to limit the heterosexual spread of the disease."

Ford offer rejected

Union leaders representing more than 30,000 Ford motor company employees are expected on Friday to reject the company's "final" pay offer when they meet management in London.

In exchange for far-reaching changes in working practices, the company has offered the union rises of 6.5 per cent this year with inflation-linked rises for the following two years, a package estimated to be worth 16.3 per cent.

Yesterday, the Amalgamated Engineering Union said its 8,500 workers employed by the company had overwhelmingly rejected the offer.

Reunion Checking in Yemen up on BA

The mother of two Birmingham women, who say they were sold as teenage brides by their father, has been reunited with them in North Yemen.

It is hoped that the reunion of Mrs Miriam Ali with her daughters Zana and Nadia Mubsen will help to clarify their claims.

The women, who have dual Yemeni-British nationality, have said they wish to return to Britain with their three children but are waiting for the Home Office to give their husbands visas.

Ferry lorry weigh-in

Lorries will have to be weighed accurately from next December before boarding roll-on roll-off ferries in an attempt by the Department of Transport to improve safety.

The move comes in the wake of a recommendation of the inquiry into the capsizing of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* which was told that the weight of lorries on ferries was only estimated, and that research showed that estimates underweighed by about 13 per cent. The industry has until the end of the month to respond to the proposal.

TV crews 'ready to starve'

By Tim Jones

The leader of the technicians at TV-am, in the 45th day of their dispute with the company over manning levels, said yesterday they were prepared to continue their action for many months until the company agreed to hold "reasonable discussions".

Mr Tim Wright, the shop steward of the Association of Cinematograph Television and Allied Technicians at TV-am, said: "The resolve of the members is such that they are prepared to hold out for a very long time. The only way the company will win on their terms is if they starve us out, and then we go back with pride."

He said the union was willing to meet the company at any time to discuss the dispute without any pre-conditions. "But what we are not prepared to do is to surrender totally; which is what they appear to want."

The union, he said, had already told the company it was willing to discuss new arrangements to end multiplying overtime payments, which have resulted in some union members claiming thousands of pounds in overtime.

Mr Wright said that many of the 225 technicians had applied for jobs elsewhere.

The dispute, which began over manning levels for the company's Christmas campaign, has now become one of the management's right to manage.

Contrary to some reports, the IBA has not criticized the new content of TV-am's strike programmes.

By the way, the Times overran. AUSTRIA 2-0, Belgium 3-0, Canada 2-0, France 2-0, Germany 2-0, Italy 2-0, Netherlands 2-0, Poland 2-0, Portugal 2-0, Scotland 2-0, Spain 2-0, Sweden 2-0, Switzerland 2-0, Turkey 2-0, USSR 2-0, Yugoslavia 2-0.

Britons back European army, poll says

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Most people support the integration of the EEC's armed forces together with a common legal system and the introduction of a Supreme Court for Europe, according to an opinion poll on attitudes towards the Community published yesterday.

Yet there remains deep anxiety about the transfer of more power to the European Parliament and the threat the EEC poses to Britain's identity.

A majority of people back a common European passport, but almost two thirds of those questioned in a MORI poll opposed the abolition of Customs checks between the 12 EEC member states.

The poll also shows support for the material advantages brought about by EEC membership in areas such as travel, living standards, price and variety of food, but being in the EEC was seen as damaging fishing and agriculture and employment prospects.

As well as revealing big contradictions in people's attitudes towards the EEC, the poll highlights massive ignorance about the workings of the

European Parliament, its members and the date of the next Euro-elections.

It also indicates that while only 37 per cent of those questioned thought Britain's membership of the European Community was a good thing, a slim majority of 51 per cent are resigned to their children being more a part of Europe. Fifteen years after Britain entered the EEC, only 48 per cent of those interviewed want the country to remain in the EEC and 39 per cent would prefer a withdrawal.

The poll, conducted for the European Democratic Group, which includes the Conservative Party, was welcomed by Mr Christopher Frout, a Conservative MP, as "a very surprising findings in the area of greater European unification."

He said: "The most positive things are the most surprising and particularly the number of those who thought that greater European unification is desirable. But there is a contradiction between the desire for greater unity and fear about more power going to the Community."

The survey, carried out by MORI last September

among 2,003 adults in Britain, showed 64 per cent "very much for" or "to some extent for" efforts to unify Western Europe, with 56 per cent believing that it would be a good thing for Europe.

Fifty eight per cent backed a common European system of legal practice and a fully integrated armed service to defend Europe, 52 per cent the introduction of a Supreme Court of Europe and 51 per cent a European passport.

Opinion was more evenly divided on the question of a common taxation system, with 41 per cent in favour and 38 per cent against. Fifty per cent were opposed to more power being transferred from national legislatures to the European parliament and 63 per cent opposed the abolition of Customs checks between member states on the grounds of fears about terrorist activity, greater drugs smuggling and the danger of rabies being introduced into Britain.

Two out of three people, however, are worried that Britain might lose some of its power to govern itself if Europe became more united.

Meningitis warning came too late, says mother of dead boy

By Craig Seton

A mother whose son died in the meningitis outbreak in Malvern Hereford and Worcester, yesterday accused health officials of failing adequately to warn parents of the dangers of the disease spreading in the town.

Mrs Reena Heaton's son, Adam, aged three, died on New Year's Day. The outbreak in the county has killed two others. Mrs Heaton's daughter, Sarah, aged six, is one of two girls recovering in hospital from the disease, meningococcal meningitis.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think that two of my children would get such a disease", Mrs Heaton said. "It may have been different if we had known earlier what was happening and got medication immediately."

"It is something we will never know and I am not angry. I will do anything I can to help other parents because I do not want them to panic about this."

The first of the three Malvern victims was Mr Philip Chapman, aged 18, who lived half a mile away from her family, Mrs Heaton said. He died on Boxing Day. There had been no alert to parents by health officials and she did not realize that Mr Chapman had lived so close. It was not until this Monday that health officials called a press conference to announce the three deaths.

Mrs Heaton, aged 31, said: "Had we known, we and other parents would have been more alert, more watchful."

Her daughter Sarah became ill with a stiff neck on December 29 and was taken into Worcester Royal Infirmary to be treated immediately for meningitis. On New Year's Day, Mrs Heaton found Adam hyperventilating, with his eyes dilating and a high temperature. "I just screamed

and ran to telephone for the doctor."

Adam was taken to Worcester Royal Infirmary and transferred to East Birmingham Hospital but died that day.

Yesterday 70 concerned parents gathered at Poolbrook primary school, which Sarah and Mrs Heaton's other son, Simon, aged nine, attend, on the housing estate where four of the five victims live.

Twenty-four of the 90 pupils at the school were kept away from school.

Four children were in hospital in Cleveland last night suffering from meningitis.

A teenage boy and girl were said to be very ill, but the two others, both girls under one year old, were improving. All four were admitted to hospital in Middlesbrough at Christmas, South Tees Health Authority said last night.

There appears to be no connection between the cases, although health officials are investigating. Three of the victims are understood to have meningococcal meningitis, the most serious form of the illness. Health officials advise parents to contact their GPs if their children show symptoms including severe headache, stiff neck or vomiting.

by their parents because of fears of the disease spreading.

Mrs Jackie Barnett, aged 27, a nurse whose daughter Kimberley, aged six, attends the school, said: "Of course everyone is very worried because four of the people who caught the disease came from the same housing estate. I will not let my children go to school unless I am reassured by the doctors that it is all right."

The headmistress, Mrs Ann Hensley, urged parents to bring pupils back to school after they had heard Dr Brian McCloskey, acting medical officer for the Worcester

Health Authority, tell them there was no danger at school.

The parents, some with small children, were clearly anxious as they crowded into the school hall and asked Dr McCloskey a series of questions. Dr McCloskey denied that the health authority had kept the outbreak "quiet".

He said: "The first case was Boxing Day and the last was on Sunday. It happened over the holiday period and we announced it to the press on Monday when we knew what the situation was. There was no attempt to keep it quiet. The death of Philip Chapman was widely reported in the newspapers."

He said that the meningococcal meningitis in Malvern were of both the B and C bacterial form and said: "You are safe to bring your children to school."

The chances of catching the disease, which most affected children under five, were about one in 4,000 and usually involved only close contact between people.

He said of the disease: "It comes in short bursts and then disappears and I think that is what is happening in this area. We hope it is at an end and will disappear."

Health officials have ruled out any direct link with the meningitis outbreak in Stroud, Gloucestershire, 20 miles away, which has affected more than 100 people over the past six years.

The other death from the outbreak of the disease, which affects the lining of the brain, was that of a woman, aged 63, on Sunday. The fifth victim in Malvern, a girl aged 16, is now recovering in Worcester Royal Infirmary.

The last death in Malvern from meningitis was in February 1986. The victim was a schoolboy, aged 13, at Malvern College.

Forty known close contacts of the two students have been contacted and given antibiotics and vaccinations.

Dr John Twomey, the Coventry Environmental Health Medical Officer, said the meningitis which struck the two students was of a different strain to that which has been causing concern in the Stroud and Malvern areas.

The national Meningitis Trust was holding an emergency meeting last night to discuss the latest outbreaks.

● Two children died of meningitis in Kent last month. They were a child aged two from Sheerness and one aged nine from Rainham.

and at some time in the future there would be the hideous difficulty of revaluation when some property owners would inevitably be faced with sharp and sudden increases. Scottish experience in the last Parliament provides an awful warning.

But the problem is not so pressing that it is worth spending so much political capital now on the community charge. That may intensify the difficulties over education and housing, and it could also deter the Government from tackling the other strategic weaknesses in its programme.

There is even more public anxiety today about the health service than about education or housing. For ministers to throw around statistics as they have been doing is quite inadequate either as an answer to the substance of the problem or as a political response.

Mrs Thatcher is known to believe that reform of the National Health Service should be a task for her fourth, not her third term. But the



Mr Kirk on top form yesterday (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

'Flying vet' fights discipline case

By Robin Young

A veterinary surgeon had a series of convictions for contempt of court and disorderly conduct which made him unfit to practise, the disciplinary committee of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons was told in London yesterday.

Mr Maurice Kirk, of St Sampson's, Guernsey, had been sentenced to eight months' imprisonment for attempting a citizen's arrest of the acting magistrate in a case in which he was appearing as defendant in July, 1984, Mr James Watt, for the Royal College, said.

In July, 1986, Mr Kirk was sentenced to two months' imprisonment after he had threatened the same court official, and abused Mr Vic Carey, the Attorney General of Guernsey, offering to go outside and fight, during an adjournment in another court case, the committee was told.

Mr Kirk, formerly known as the "Flying Vet", is a familiar figure in courts. Originally he was notorious for low flying, drunken driving, fighting policemen and terrifying aerobics performed in an Italian bi-plane infested with woodworm.

He appeared for the disciplinary hearing in a Norfolk knickerbocker suit presented to him by his friend, the actor Oliver Reed.

The man who once parachuted from 8,000 ft to his wedding, flew a light aeroplane under Tower Bridge, and made a drunken landing at Hurn Airport yesterday failed in his attempt to claim that he had become an expert on Guernsey law.

Mr Conrad Griffiths, for Mr Kirk, claimed that the proceedings were premature. The committee rejected Mr Griffiths's submission.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

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Trend in smoking concerns Currie

By Jill Sherman
Social Services
Correspondent

More than a million schoolchildren and 60,000 babies born this year will die of smoking-related diseases such as lung cancer, Mrs Edwina Currie said yesterday.

"It is vital that everything possible is done to avoid this wholly preventable and tragic loss of life", the Under Secretary of State for Health said.

Her warning came as unpublished figures of smoking rates for 1986 show that the decline in smoking which was marked in the early 1980s is levelling off and is negligible in female smokers.

The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys says the percentage of adult male smokers has dropped from 36 to 34 per cent of the population.

The proportion of females who smoke has fallen from 32 per cent only to 31 per cent, a drop which is not statistically significant.

Mrs Currie said: "I am particularly concerned that smoking among women is falling more slowly. It is significant that lung cancer is rapidly overtaking breast cancer as a cause of death among women."

Studies showed that girls aged between 11 and 15 smoked twice as many cigarettes as boys of the same age.

Speaking at a press conference in London to announce details of this year's No Smoking Day on March 9, she said that the Department of Health is drawing up a non-smoking policy to be aimed at young women.

Professor Richard Peto, director of the Cancer Research Studies Unit at Oxford University, predicted the number of deaths if smoking continues at the 1988 rate.

Of today's 15 million children and teenagers about one third would become smokers and a quarter of these would die from smoking.

Related diseases claimed 600,000 lives a year, a sixth of all deaths. "Of 1000 smoking adults, one will be murdered, six will die on the roads and 250 will be killed by tobacco", Professor Peto said.

Urging the public to "kill the weed before it kills you", Mrs Currie also gave a warning of the dangers of passive smoking and the damage smoking can do to the unborn child.

She cited a recent report which showed that children whose mothers smoked during pregnancy were shorter and had smaller brains than children whose mothers did not smoke.

Mrs Currie emphasized there was clear evidence that families of smokers were more likely to have respiratory problems. "The families of smokers might well contract lung cancer."

She said the Government would need to consider a report on passive smoking from the independent Scientific Committee on Smoking and Health, to be published next month. "Employers have a particular responsibility. I hope that they will encourage no smoking areas."

Professor Peto urged the Government to increase taxes on cigarettes and to introduce legislation to restrict cigarette advertising to the point of sale.

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Chess men draw after 12 moves

By Harry Golombek
Chess Correspondent

International master Nigel Davies of England and Lev Psakhis of the Soviet Union agreed on a draw after 12 moves and 75 minutes play in the seventh round of the Foreign and Colonial Hastings Grandmaster Chess Tournament yesterday.

The pair drew with practically all the pieces still on their board.

Grandmasters Nunn and Short took 23 moves to reach their draw, although there too, much material was still on the board.

The other two games, between former British champion Jonathan Speelman and Murray Chandler, and Joel Benjamin and Bent Larsen, continued for much longer.

Speelman appeared to have chances in his game. Larsen had uneven material with the advantage of the exchange, but there were still many chances on both sides.

The International Chess Federation announced during the course of play yesterday that Speelman and Short have both achieved very high rankings and are well over the 2,600 mark.

The announcement shows the great strength achieved by British players in recent years.

Other areas hit but cause of disease still unknown

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

It emerged yesterday that other areas of the country have also experienced recent outbreaks of meningitis which have claimed several lives.

Health officials in Portsmouth are still carrying out an inquiry into five cases of meningitis between December 2 and December 22 which resulted in two deaths.

Two of the victims were male students at Portsmouth Polytechnic although health experts have failed to find a link between the two. The first student to contract the disease is still at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth. The second, Mr Kevin McCarthy, has since died.

The other victims were a young man and woman in their early twenties, who have now both been discharged from hospital, and a girl aged 15 who died on Christmas Eve.

Dr Duncan Walters, a specialist in community medicine at Portsmouth health authority, said yesterday that all five cases appeared to be unconnected.

Tests were still being carried out to determine the strain of the disease although some of them were the commonest C strain.

Plymouth has also experienced several recent cases of meningitis. Five people have contracted the disease over the last two months and one of these has died.

Two students at Warwick University also contracted the disease after the university broke up for the Christmas vacation. One of the students, a woman from Hampshire, died on December 17. The

other, a man from London, was admitted to a London hospital, where he is still recovering.

Forty known close contacts of the two students have been contacted and given antibiotics and vaccinations.

Dr John Twomey, the Coventry Environmental Health Medical Officer, said the meningitis which struck the two students was of a different strain to that which has been causing concern in the Stroud and Malvern areas.

The national Meningitis Trust was holding an emergency meeting last night to discuss the latest outbreaks.

● Two children died of meningitis in Kent last month. They were a child aged two from Sheerness and one aged nine from Rainham.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

The authority of ministers is buoyed up by their election victory, the morale of the governing party should be at its highest and with luck there should be time for the voters to forget whatever anguish is inflicted upon them before the next election comes around.

This last point applies only uncertainly to the community charge.

Local authority finance does, it is true, present a problem. Domestic rates are not an ideal source of revenue,

and at some time in the future there would be the hideous difficulty of revaluation when some property owners would inevitably be faced with sharp and sudden increases. Scottish experience in the last Parliament provides an awful warning.

But the problem is not so pressing that it is worth spending so much political capital now on the community charge. That may intensify the difficulties over education and housing, and it could also deter the Government from tackling the other strategic weaknesses in its programme.

There is even more public anxiety today about the health service than about education or housing. For ministers to throw around statistics as they have been doing is quite inadequate either as an answer to the substance of the problem or as a political response.

Mrs Thatcher is known to believe that reform of the National Health Service should be a task for her fourth, not her third term. But the

Driver who caused deaths jailed after private prosecution

By Michael McCarthy

A young drunken driver, two of whose friends were killed when his van crashed, was sent to prison yesterday after a private prosecution by the parents of one of the victims, who complained of the inadequacy of the sentence.

Paul Curran, aged 21, who was badly hurt himself in the crash in July 1986, was jailed for 15 months at the Central Criminal Court after admitting two charges of causing death by reckless driving.

The Crown Prosecution Service had originally charged him only with the lesser offences of careless driving and driving with excess alcohol, but Mr Danny Healy and his wife, Patricia, parents of Mark Healy, who died in the crash, instigated a private prosecution.

After the hearing, Mrs Healy complained that the sentence on Curran, who, the court was told, was "genuinely remorseful", was "absolutely disgusting" in its leniency. "He should have got at least ten years for manslaughter", Mrs Healy said.



Mr and Mrs Healy with their son Michael outside the court.

Mrs Healy and her husband have spent much of the last 18 months pursuing the prosecution of their dead son's friend, backed by the Campaign Against Drunk Drivers, a pressure group formed three years ago by two fathers whose children were killed by drink drivers.

Mrs Healy, a former nurse from Wood Green, north London, where Curran also lives, said yesterday: "We can never forgive him. From the start, he should have been charged with manslaughter or causing death by reckless driving. I hope if he does 15 months it will be 15 months from the day he goes in to the day he gets out."

Mr Healy said: "Please don't talk about justice. There can be no justice for my son because he is in a cemetery. This Christmas there were three dinner plates where there used to be four. All over Christmas I wondered how many other people have been killed in the same way."

The accident, the court was told, happened when Curran, then 19, took five friends for a ride in his van in Enfield, Middlesex, in the early hours of July 14, 1986, after visiting a discotheque. The van went off the road and hit a tree, killing outright Mark Healy, aged 21, and another friend, Roger Ryan, aged 19. Curran was badly injured.

Mr John Bevan, for the prosecution, said tests showed Curran had a blood alcohol count of 114 milligrams, the legal limit being 80. "A decision was made to prosecute the defendant for careless driving and driving with excess alcohol," Mrs Healy immediately tried to persuade the Crown Prosecution Service to change its mind and then started a private prosecution which the CPS took over in May, 1987, after the case had been committed for trial.

Mr Graeme Sampson, for Curran, said that his client had been "punished substantially for this offence already". He added: "This is a tragic incident which has left an emotional legacy for everybody involved. Mr Curran is genuinely remorseful and feels he is responsible for the death of his close friends. That is a matter which will rest with him for ever."

The judge told Curran: "Everybody must know that if they drive when they have taken too much to drink, and are over the limit, then they must expect to go to prison."

"If it is found that people are driving recklessly having taken excess drink, and that they virtually get away with it, then in my view there is no point in having a campaign of the sort that we have had in recent days."

He imposed a 15-month sentence to run concurrently on each charge and disqualified Curran from driving for three years. Mr and Mrs Healy, who had to put their house up as security against anticipated legal costs, were awarded costs.

Minister protests at Tate 'obscenity'

By Michael McCarthy

A government minister has written to Sir Alan Bowdler, director of the Tate Gallery, expressing outrage at a sculpture with an obscene label which has been seen by children queuing for the gallery's Beatrix Potter exhibition.

Mr David Mitchell, the Minister of State at the Department of Transport, says that he and his small son saw the work, entitled "English Heritage - Humpty Dumpty", and he was appalled.

He asks Sir Alan if "these are the depths to which you have sunk" and calls the exhibit, a collage of "found objects" by Bill Woodrow, "disgraceful". He has sent a copy of his letter to Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts.

Mr Mitchell was on holiday and could not be contacted last night.

Mr Luce said: "I was disturbed to learn of this."

However officials at the Tate, which bought the work before Christmas for a reported £15,000, strongly defended it.

Mr Richard Morphet, the Tate's Keeper of Modern Art, said he thought it an entirely legitimate work.

He said it was a considerable distance away on another floor from the Beatrix Potter exhibition.

Sir Alan was unavailable last night.

© The head of restoration at the British Museum yesterday denied accusations that Mr Eric Harding, one of the museum's conservators, was a controversial figure to have been chosen by the National Gallery to restore the Leonardo Cartoon which was damaged by shotgun last July.

Aged six, and fame beckons



Alexandra Pakravan, aged six, is about to become one of television's youngest celebrities. The granddaughter of Lord and Lady Longford has been chosen to appear in the forthcoming BBC2 film *Sweet As You Are*, portraying the daughter of a couple who find their marriage threatened by AIDS. The film, a "moral tale for the anxious Eighties", also stars Miranda Richardson and Liam Neeson, and will be transmitted on January 24 as part of the forthcoming Screen 2 season (Photograph: John Rogers).

Portfolio Gold Winnings will help job hunter

Three winners share the Portfolio Gold prize of £16,000, four times the usual amount as there has been no winner for three days.

Mr Stephen Edelman, an unemployed former chauffeur for a merchant bank in the City of London, plans to invest his share of the windfall on a computer to enhance his job prospects.

Mr Edelman, aged 55, of Poplar Way, Brookmans Park, Herts, said: "I have been unemployed for two years but I am hoping for a job in arts administration and I will use the money to improve my chances of getting a job. I have written 50 applications in the last month with no responses as yet."

After gaining an Open University degree Mr Edelman took a further degree at the Middlesex Polytechnic in economics and geography and is applying for an arts job in the Home Counties.

Mrs Caroline Wilkins, aged 30, of St Dominics, Salisbury, plans to use her £5,333 to set up a trust for her daughter Rebecca, aged seven months, after discussing the best plans with her husband Graham, an accountant.

Mr Nigel Harris, of Ashworth Road, Maidstone, Kent, also shares the prize.

Portfolio Gold cards can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold,
The Times,
PO Box 40,
Blackburn BB1 6AJ.



Mr Stephen Edelman: seeks arts administration job.

Drink-drive blitz continues

By Kerry Gill

Scottish police are to continue breathalysing more drivers, after a decrease in the number of motorists caught over the limit during the new year holidays.

Although the Scottish Office will not publish final figures until today, most of the larger forces said the number of accidents had been cut and there were fewer drunk drivers on the roads.

Strathclyde police, covering

the Glasgow area, and Lothian and Borders police, whose area includes Edinburgh, will continue with their policy of road blocks to check drivers.

Mr Robert Cunningham, Assistant Chief Constable of Strathclyde police, said: "It is now becoming obvious that the message is getting through to drivers."

"We have had the full support of the public and there is no doubt whatsoever that their co-operation has contributed to the latest results."

"We would remind drivers, however, that our campaign against drinking and driving continues."

Only 10 motorists stopped by police in Northern Ireland over Christmas and the New Year holidays were over the drink-drive limit, figures show.

The RUC stopped 3,074 drivers over the festive period. A senior officer said the majority of motorists had displayed a "most responsible attitude".

Rival's laugh led to killing

A wealthy Canadian businessman yesterday told a jury how he killed his wife's lover in a London hotel after the man laughed at him.

Joseph Robb, aged 41, said he went to see the lover to plead with him to leave his wife alone after he discovered love letters in her briefcase. But Mr Michael Horton chuckled and ignored his entreaties to help him save the marriage.

Robb, who emigrated from Belfast to Canada with his wife Sheila 13 years ago, told the Central Criminal Court that when the two men met to

discuss the affair Mr Horton said only a few minutes before announcing that he was "off to dinner".

That was when, said Robb, president of Northern Fine Foods of Toronto, he lost his temper and lashed out with two bottles, which he broke over Mr Horton's head, and a penknife. Yesterday he sobbed when shown police photographs of Mr Horton which showed he had been stabbed at least 20 times, including twice across the jugular vein.

"I didn't intend to kill him or cause serious injury," Robb said. "I wasn't thinking of

anything. I just wanted to hit him. I am not a violent man. I had hoped we could have had a civilized conversation. I lost control because of the whole atmosphere."

Robb, a father of two, admits manslaughter but denies murdering Mr Horton, aged 41, who was the London-based European president of Benson Marshall, a New York public relations company.

Mr Horton previously employed Sheila Robb between 1981 and 1985 in Toronto and by last year the relationship turned into a love affair. He was killed in May.

Robb flew to London to confront Mr Horton after he found letters in his wife's handwriting addressed to "Darling" which he initially assumed were for him, as well as letters to her from Mr Horton. His wife had told him she wanted a separation.

Robb told the court the letters "started to explain to me the confused behaviour of my wife over the past eight weeks which I had put down to the pressure of her job. I felt as miserable as I have ever felt in my life."

The trial continues today.

Court told 'Wrac' was a man

A young soldier had sexual relations with a transvestite male dressed as a WRAC major, a court was told yesterday.

Gunner Adam Lamb, aged 19, said he was under the influence of alcohol when he was approached by Stuart Wyllie, aged 22, as he walked back to his barracks in Colchester, Essex.

Gunner Lamb said he was convinced that Mr Wyllie, of Leather Grove, Colchester, was a woman. Mr Wyllie, who has pleaded not guilty to gross indecency and other sexual offences against three soldiers, was dressed as a woman major.

Mr Wyllie's true sexual identity was not revealed during the sexual act, Gunner Lamb told Ipswich Crown Court.

He said he first learnt of Mr Wyllie's gender some days after the event.

"I had in my mind that it was a major in the WRAC. For most soldiers, that is quite an achievement," he said.

The trial continues today.

'Cot-death' baby was killed

A "cot-death" baby was actually killed by his mother, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

There were no marks of violence on the body of Samuel Feiner, aged 11 months, when it was discovered by his father at the family home in Surrey, Mr Brian Leary, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury.

The child's condition was "entirely consistent" with a cot death, and it was impossible to distinguish at post-mortem examinations between genuine victims of the sudden infant death syndrome and those who had

been suffocated, Mr Leary said.

However, a pathologist became suspicious when he found a detached eyelash on the child's right eyelid, which suggested a "mechanical disturbance" to the face.

The boy's mother, Mrs Janice Feiner, aged 36, allegedly left a suicide note at her home in Commonwealth Road, Caterham, in which she said she had to take the baby with her, "because he is all I have left".

Mr Leary said it was accepted she had suffered genuine amnesia.

Mrs Feiner denies killing

Samuel Feiner between July 7 and 10 last year.

Mr Leary said the boy was a normal, happy and healthy baby.

"It is certain he was well cared for by Mrs Feiner, who was thought of by all who knew her as a loving and caring mother."

The death occurred while Mrs Feiner's husband, Ralph, was away. He returned home on July 9 to find the house in darkness and to discover the boy lying dead beneath the quilt of the couple's bed.

Mrs Feiner denied writing the suicide note.

The hearing continues

Police order Yardie investigation

By Stewart Tisdler
Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard commanders have appointed a senior detective to examine intelligence operations aimed at the Yardies, the Jamaican-based gang linked to drug trafficking and violence, to see whether more can be done to combat members of the gang in the London underworld.

The study is being carried

out by Det Chief Supt Roy Ramm, who as staff officer to the head of London's specialist detective force last year was involved in research on the Yardies. He is now a member of the Yard's criminal intelligence branch, and has just returned from a course with the FBI in the United States.

At the end of last year, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, was given a report

on the Yardie problem in London. He had asked to be kept abreast of developments after a visit to the Brixton area of south London.

Police have identified a number of Yardie figures who have fled to Britain from the West Indies and who are linked to violence.

Officers in some areas of London believe the Yardies could grow into a real menace.



Joseph Robb, left, the husband, and Mr Michael Horton, the victim. They were incorrectly named in captions yesterday.

Radio 3 changes

Network aims at the younger listener

By Lynda Mardlin

BBC Radio 3, which still broadcasts silent pauses where other stations have jingles, is to develop a more popular approach while attempting to maintain standards, it was announced yesterday.

Mr John Drummond, recently appointed Radio 3 Controller, intends to introduce changes later this month.

He said he hoped to make programmes more accessible and also attractive to a younger audience. In addition, he plans to introduce more fixed time slots, giving a more regular pattern to schedules.

Familiar classics by composers such as Vivaldi, Haydn and Mozart are to feature more in the early mornings, there will be more news bulletins and the two-

hour *Mainly for Pleasure* will be, if not made snappy, shortened by 30 minutes and broadcast on Friday evenings only instead of on four weekday evenings.

The network has a budget of £40 million, including funding for BBC orchestras and musicians, and is mainly devoted to serious music.

With 5,100 hours of music and 100 new plays annually, it attracts one million listeners a week.

Mr Drummond said: "People speak of the 'Radio 3 audience'. In fact, Radio 3 has many different audiences, each of which bring to the programmes their special interests, knowledge and enthusiasm."

"Maintaining our standards and balancing the requirements of our different audi-

ences is what Radio 3 is about. To this end we are looking for a wider range of voices and opinions on the network."

New features include a daily non-music programme, *Third Ear*, which Mr Drummond insists is not another chat-show, but "an opportunity for people to talk at length and in depth in a way not currently possible elsewhere in radio".

Experts such as Julian Spalding, director of Manchester Art Galleries and Paul Bailey, the novelist, will introduce live discussions on a different aspect of the arts each evening, beginning on January 18 with Mr Spalding in conversation with Neil McGregor, director of the National Gallery.

On Fridays, the creators of forthcoming productions in

theatre, cinema or television talk about their projects, beginning on January 22 with Bill Bryden, who is to make his Royal Opera House directing debut with Wagner's *Parsifal*.

There will also be a regular Sunday showcase for the BBC's orchestras.

A new programme called *Composers of the Week* (replacing the popular *This Week's Composer*) will be broadcast each weekday at a new time of 8.35am to make it more accessible to working people.

A weekly series of traditional music from countries around the world begins on January 20; jazz coverage is to be enhanced with a fortnightly *Saturday Night Jazz* and *Sunday Review* is being extended to include new records.

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Soaring standard of living

Economic recovery shows boom for leisure industry

By Peter Mulligan

A picture of British life where most people have more free time, more ways to spend it and higher real incomes than those of previous generations emerges from the official Stationery Office handbook, *Britain 1988*, published today.

The nation's most popular pastime is watching television, with more than 50 per cent of households now having two or more sets and the average viewing time running to 27 hours a week.

Growing numbers are supplementing the habit by using a video recorder. The proportion of households with one installed rose from 24 per cent in 1984 to 31 per cent in 1985.

The 469-page handbook, published annually, shows that the average Briton, when not watching the small screen, is living longer, spending more on consumer goods and enjoying a higher standard of living.

It says holiday entitlement

Nearly 50 per cent of people receiving a legacy of more than £50,000 would make the purchase of a home their top priority, a survey shows.

A similar number would invest the windfall in stocks and shares, while for smaller legacies of up to £11,000, the choice would be a new car, a holiday or home improvements.

The survey, conducted by Marplan for the market research firm Mintel, calculates

that in 1986-87, about £5.8 billion in legacies was released to 590,000 beneficiaries. In 10 years' time, the figure will have grown to £11.7 billion, representing about 2.9 per cent of disposable consumer income.

The report says wealth from legacies can be used to make the life of society richer, not through collective control of assets, but through individuals determined to improve their lives.

The economic recovery, now in its seventh successive year of growth, has, since 1980, been higher than in the other important European countries.

The improvement is reflected in a substantial rise in expenditure on housing and durable goods. Ownership of telephones, freezers and central heating systems is growing most rapidly.

More than 60 per cent of households own or are buying their own homes and the figure is rising. Owner-occupied dwellings have risen from four million in 1951 to nearly 14 million in 1985.

The Government's privatization programme has resulted in nearly 20 per cent of adults becoming shareholders as against 7 per cent in 1979.

Housing standards are continually improving, the handbook says. Some 97 per cent of households in Great Britain have exclusive use of bath or shower and an inside lavatory, while 69 per cent have central heating.

There is a telephone in more than 80 per cent of homes, a

refrigerator in 95 per cent and a washing machine in 81 per cent. About 62 per cent have the use of at least one car or van and 17 per cent have the use of two or more.

The average size of households is diminishing. Ten per cent of people live alone or in one-parent families.

Beer remains the most popular alcoholic drink, although a "notable development" has been the increasing consumption of lager, now estimated to account for more than 50 per cent of beer sales.

Sports have grown in popularity. Walking and swimming are the two most popular, followed among men by snooker, billiards and darts.

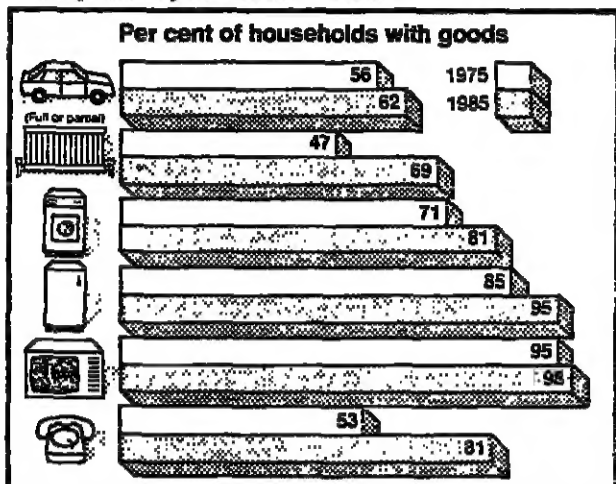
One in two households in Britain keeps a pet. There are an estimated six million dogs and six million cats.

Employment has been increasing since 1983, representing the longest period of continuous employment growth for nearly 30 years. Women's average hourly earnings increased from just under two-thirds of men's in 1970 to nearly three-quarters in 1986.

On immigration, the handbook says that 46,800 people were accepted for settlement here last year, 8,500 fewer than in 1985.

Hi-tech industries grew in output between 1980 and 1986 by 31 per cent while manufacturing industry grew on average by five per cent. The proportion of employees in the service industries has risen to 67 per cent.

Britain 1988, An Official Handbook (Stationery Office, £12.95).



MP holds surgery in Dartmoor



Miss Emma Nicholson, the Conservative MP, behind bars yesterday at Dartmoor, where she held a constituency "surgery".

"I look after peers, lunatics and children - none of whom have a vote - so why not prisoners as well?" she said. Miss Nicholson, MP for Devon West and Torridge, spoke to 21 inmates, including four serving life sentences,

during her three-hour session.

"While they are in Dartmoor they are my constituents and my responsibility. It doesn't matter what they have done - but if somebody tells me about any crime I shall have no hesitation in telling the police."

Miss Nicholson, aged 46, plans regular surgeries at Dartmoor, which houses

620 prisoners, among them murderers and rapists.

Mr Douglas Dowling, the assistant governor, said: "In spite of Dartmoor's image, we try to be as positive as we can. If Miss Nicholson can achieve something for the inmates which we have been unable to, then it must be a good step."

(Photograph: Mike Aisford)

Bus de-regulation has limited impact

By Rodney Cowton
Transport Correspondent

A study of the impact of the de-regulation of bus services in three cities suggests that it has done little to stimulate competition.

Under the Transport Act 1985, controls on bus operations outside London were largely eliminated. Subject to meeting safety standards, from October 1986 operators could run on any route they

wished, provided they notified the Traffic Commissioner.

On routes which would be unprofitable, but which it was desirable should be maintained for social reasons, operators tendered for support from the local authority, with the route normally being awarded to the operator who needed the smallest subsidy.

The Transport and Road Research Laboratory of the

Department of Transport has been monitoring the effect of de-regulation, and its latest report assesses the impact on Aberdeen, Plymouth, and Southampton.

It concludes that initially de-regulation has not caused big changes to the bus services in the three cities.

"In Aberdeen and Southampton, the changes to the network are no more than those which an operator

makes in response to changing demands.

"Plymouth has seen greater changes to its services, with an extensive replanning exercise and the introduction of smaller vehicles on radial routes at higher frequencies. However, direct competition has been avoided, and though de-regulation has probably accelerated the replanning process, it could have taken place under the old route licensing system."

Demand for boycott of French livestock

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A boycott of French livestock until France lifts restrictions on British exports was demanded at the Oxford Farming Conference yesterday.

Mr Henry Fell, former chairman of the Tenant Farmers Association, said breeders should reject French animals.

A mania was sweeping through British sheep breeders, who believed that any French breed must be better than its British counterpart.

"I find absolutely nothing to object to in this trade", he said. "If they are good, like Charolais cattle, they will become part of the scenery. What I find totally unacceptable is that we are barred from doing the same in reverse."

Mr Fell said the French refused to authorize the im-

portation of nearly all British pure breeds and would not even consider hybrids. Health regulations had nothing to do with it; it was French protectionism at its worst.

Within five years a trade could be established for one million ewe lambs a year. It was being blocked, however, and years of representation through government channels had got nowhere.

The only answer was to ban French livestock until there was reciprocal freedom of entry. French pedigree exporters, seeing the loss of a lucrative market, would force a change of policy.

Mr Fell also said that quotas were a disaster for British agriculture. Reduction of quotas sucked in more imports.

Killer in 'plea for attention'

A mental patient who stabbed her social worker to death may have been "attention-seeking", an inquiry was told yesterday.

Miss Elizabeth Lawson, representing the local government officers' union, Nalgo, said there was no clear-cut evidence that Sharon Campbell, aged 25, was psychotic.

The hearing, instigated by the Kent social services department, is investigating the after-care treatment of Campbell when she was released from Bexley Hospital, Kent.

Campbell stabbed to death her social worker, Miss Isobel Schwarz, aged 28, of Borstal Road, Rochester, at her office at Bexley Hospital in 1984. She was convicted of manslaughter and sent to Broadmoor top security hospital.

Miss Lawson said Miss Schwarz had requested that Campbell be readmitted to hospital under a section of the Mental Health Act, but doctors had disagreed. Campbell, she said, had been interviewed on four occasions, but there was no evidence that she needed further hospitalization. The hearing continues today.

Hotel 'was cover for art raider'

A man booked a room at a country hotel for himself and his woman friend to cover his planned escape from London with a valuable art haul, a court was told yesterday.

George Bergin reserved the room for the night after raiders planned to steal paintings worth £1 million from the Sir John Soane Museum in Holborn, central London. It was alleged at the Central Criminal Court. But police ambushed the gang and Bergin's brother, Dennis Bergin, aged 26, was shot and fatally wounded by a police sergeant.

Mr Timothy Langdale, for the prosecution, said George Bergin, aged 23, was waiting to carry off the haul. It was to include "The Rake's Progress" series of Hogarth paintings, each valued at £150,000.

Mr Langdale said: "The prosecution cannot say where they were to be taken, but George Bergin had booked a hotel for the night, north-east of Norwich."

George Bergin of Ealing, Derek Smith of Northolt, Lee Frailing of Northolt, all West London, and William McKimming, address unknown, deny any part in the planned raid.

The case continues today.

TV serial is accused of manipulating children

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

EastEnders, the BBC television serial which often tackles sensitive social issues, was accused last night of unscrupulously manipulating children to boost its audience ratings.

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers and Listeners Association, wrote to BBC chiefs and the Prime Minister complaining about the "chronic excesses" of the series and the time it is broadcast - 7.30pm.

She criticized storylines, which included drug-taking, attempted suicide, promiscuity, endless lying, quarrelling, prostitution, blackmail, drunkenness, homosexual relationships, bad language, violence

Last night the BBC said: "As always we will study her letter with interest."

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Saudis scrap plan to tax foreigners

King Fahd's plan to impose a hefty income tax on well-paid foreign workers in Saudi Arabia disappeared yesterday almost as quickly as it had been decreed (Nicholas Beeson writes). The kingdom, to the great relief of expatriates, announced that it was scrapping the scheme.

An official in Riyadh said: "King Fahd has instructed the cancellation of an announcement regarding income tax on foreigners." British and Saudi sources predicted that a revised and moderated version would emerge soon.

"There will probably be a tax levied at about 5 or 6 per cent of salaries," said Mr Richard Roberts, the general manager and director of ARA International, the largest management recruitment firm operating in Saudi Arabia. Yesterday's extraordinary reversal brought sighs of relief from the 25,000 British workers in Saudi Arabia, the vast majority of whom earn more than £9,337 a year. They would have fallen into the top tax bracket, and had expected to pay a 30 per cent levy on their salaries from January 21.

Pressure on Bonn Moscow strike

West Germany is expected to come under increasing pressure from the Soviet Union in the next few months to persuade Nato countries to give up plans to modernize battlefield nuclear weapons, according to senior diplomatic sources (Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent, writes).

There are also clear signals that Moscow intends to press the Bonn Government to try to push through an agreement on chemical weapons.

Mr Valentin Falin, head of the Novosti news agency, was quoted yesterday in the West German newspaper *Bild* as claiming that West Germany stockpiled American chemical weapons and it was therefore in its interests to remove them.

Boy must stay in care

New York (AP) — Terrence Karamba, aged nine, who was allegedly brutalized by his father, a Zimbabwean diplomat, will stay in a foster home during an appeal over a decision to return him to Zimbabwe, a federal appeals court has ruled.

The boy was placed in foster care last month after his elementary school teachers in Queens, New York, noticed suspicious scars and injuries. Lawyers have claimed that the injuries were inflicted by his father, Floyd, an administrative attaché at the Zimbabwean mission to the United Nations.

Feud toll 'Killed for nears 300 debt' hint

Johannesburg — Scores of police were drafted into black townships bordering Pietermaritzburg, Natal, yesterday as the death toll in the feud between rival black factions nears 300 (Ray Kennedy writes). General Roelof van Vuuren, acting Police Commissioner, said that the situation was "of grave concern."

Official efforts to halt the bloodshed between supporters of the radical United Democratic Front and the militant Zulu Inkatha movement led by Chief Mangosuthu Buthe have all so far proved to be ineffective.

Two die in jail siege

Rio de Janeiro (AP) — Two prisoners armed with guns and bombs were holding six hostages in a prison about 60 miles from Porto Alegre in Brazil yesterday, but 10 others gave up and released 21 hostages. Two prisoners have been killed and four other people have been injured in the incident, the police said.

More than 350 police were inside the prison. On Monday night, an armed police team of about 20 men invaded the prison in an unsuccessful attempt to put down the uprising which was launched as a breakout attempt.

Maoist xenophobia

Overseas students pay price in China

From Robert Grieser, Peking

The experiences of two foreign students embroiled in separate confrontations with Chinese public security officials in Tibet and Peking have underlined the care foreigners must still exercise in China.

Despite the Government's official policy of opening up the Republic to the outside world, decades of Maoist propaganda have left most mainland Chinese conditioned to regard foreigners with extreme suspicion.

Herr Felix Haller, an Austrian student, aged 25, has been under arrest in a hotel room at Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, since December 22 for his alleged involvement in a December 19 independence demonstration in the town by Tibetan Buddhist monks.

In the other case, Señor Francisco Reges, aged 34, who now lies semi-paralysed in a bed at Peking's No 3 Hospital, claims that Chinese assailants pushed him off a roof in the early hours of December 30.

Herr Haller, a student at Vienna University, has been studying in Lhasa for more than a year, according to officials at the Austrian Embassy in Peking. Although enrolled at the Minorities Institute in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, Herr Haller reportedly claimed that he could best pursue his study of the Tibetan language in Lhasa.

On December 19, as many as 20 Tibetan Buddhist monks marched near the Jokhang, the holiest Buddhist shrine in Tibet, to support Tibetan independence from China. Chinese officials said that Herr Haller had visited the monks' convent outside the

Arabs must appeal today against Israeli deportation orders

Palestinian dies in renewed Gaza unrest

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

One Palestinian was shot dead and another seriously wounded in the Gaza Strip yesterday afternoon as violent disturbances continued in the occupied territories.

Troops opened fire at Khan Yunis when a soldier was hit by a stone thrown from a crowd of demonstrators. The dead man was named as Mr Ali Alis Dahlan, aged 25. His cousin, Basil, aged 16, was wounded.

There were reports of stone throwing and burning barricades in the West Bank, although troops, under strict orders to slow restraint, broke up the disturbances with tear gas and rubber bullets.

One of the places most seriously affected was the village of A-Ram, where a 25-year-old woman was shot.

Jerusalem (Reuters) — Rabbi Menachem Porush, the Israeli parliamentarian, received a boobytrapped singing Christmas card yesterday which was defused safely, a police spokesman said. The card was the 11th to arrive in Israel in the past week.

One of the places most seriously affected was the village of A-Ram, where a 25-year-old woman was shot.

dead on Sunday. The disturbances there continued to spill over into nearby camps and the town of Ramallah.

A group of Palestinian moderates is trying to channel the disturbances into peaceful disobedience. Tomorrow they will launch an appeal for Palestinians to make their point against Israeli occupation by non-payment of taxes, refusing to buy Israeli goods, and trying to leave jobs in Israel for work in the occupied territories.

One of the leaders of the group is Mr Haim Siniora, editor of the East Jerusalem newspaper, *al-Fajr*. He said that Israel would be asked to cancel deportation orders and stop its iron-fist policy. If it did not, the civil disobedience campaign would be started.

The proposed "civil rebellion" was discounted immediately by Mr Teddy Kolek, the Mayor of Jerusalem. He said Mr Siniora was an Arab Christian with no following.

The nine Palestinians who have been served with deportation orders must appeal against them today before a

He was put forward for deportation in 1983, but that was never carried out. He spent six months in administrative detention in 1986.

He is accused of being among those responsible for initiating most of the recent disturbances in the camp.

WHERE THE REFUGEES ARE

1 Lebanon (13 camps)	143,809
In camps	134,800
Not in camps	9,009
Total	143,809
2 Syria (10 camps)	75,208
In camps	182,781
Not in camps	257,989
Total	257,989
3 Jordan (10 camps)	208,716
In camps	636,826
Not in camps	845,542
Total	845,542
4 West Bank (19 camps)	94,624
In camps	278,768
Not in camps	373,586
Total	373,586
5 Gaza (8 camps)	244,418
In camps	200,961
Not in camps	43,457
Total	444,375
Total in camps	798,977
Total not in camps	1,434,150
GRAND TOTAL	2,233,127

Palestinian refugees as at June 30, 1987. Numbers compiled by United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees in the Near East.

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

Kidnap trial brings threats

By John England, Düsseldorf

The trial of a Lebanese charged with kidnapping two West Germans in Beirut almost a year ago began yesterday in a heavily guarded court in Düsseldorf under the shadow of warnings to Bonn about the fate of one of the victims who is still held.

The pro-Iranian group which is holding the hostages, Dr Rudolf Cordes, aged 53, said in a note delivered to a news agency in Beirut on Monday that his welfare would depend upon the treatment of the man in the dock, Mr Abbas Ali Hamadei, aged 29, received at the hands of West German justice.

"They (the West German Government) should be careful in what they do," the note said. "They must study carefully what is happening these days and learn from that. They must know that everything has a price. They should take into consideration the fact that things won't remain as they are."

The note was accompanied by a photograph of a haggard-looking Dr Cordes, who was kidnapped on January 17 last year, four days before the abduction of Herr Alfred Schmidt, aged 48, who was released in September.

The kidnappings, by the Shia Hezbollah (Party of God) group, were in retaliation for the arrest of Mr Muhammad Ali Hamadei, aged 23, at Frankfurt airport on January 13.

The younger brother was detained after bottles of liquid explosive were found in his baggage when he arrived on a flight from Beirut.

He is suspected of involvement in the hijacking of a TWA airliner in 1985 and the murder of a US Navy diver passenger, and Washington put pressure on Bonn to extradite him for trial. Bonn, however, announced last June that he would go on trial in Frankfurt this year charged with air piracy, murder and attempting to smuggle explosives into West Germany.

Mr Abbas Ali Hamadei is also charged with attempting to coerce the West German Government into releasing his brother in exchange for the hostages and with smuggling explosives into the country.

Before he answered questions on his background, his defence lawyer, Herr Eckart Hild, made a statement calling on the kidnappers to release Dr Cordes. Herr Hild also said that the case would prove that Mr Hamadei had had nothing to do with the abductions.

BEIRUT: Those holding Dr Cordes yesterday accused the West German authorities of mistreating Mr Muhammad Ali Hamadei and threatened revenge. Bonn denied the charge.



A student at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank manning a barricade yesterday.

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

Jabaliya camp is the worst in Gaza

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

Jabaliya camp, where Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, was "shocked" by conditions, is easily the largest and probably the most unpleasant of the eight camps in the occupied Gaza Strip. It social conditions breed violence, it can be no accident that the current wave of unrest began there.

As far as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency is concerned, the Gaza camps are worse than any of the others it runs for Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, with the exception of those actually in Beirut.

"It is quite clear to anyone who travels among them that the ones in Gaza are the worst, particularly in terms of overcrowding and sanitation," a spokesman for the UN agency said yesterday.

In terms of sanitation it is worse than anywhere else, including Lebanon, because it is so sprawling and overcrowded. There is no sewage system and after 38 years we have just been unable to keep up with the growth in population.

In the centre of Jabaliya, for example, there is a large, open pool, originally meant for ground drainage, but now full of sewage.

Housing standards are varied. Some refugees still live in crumbling, prefabricated houses put up nearly 40 years ago. Some have built better homes in the camp.

Poverty is growing. The UN agency provides emergency rations to special hardship cases, designed for families with no male wage earner.

Malnutrition is a result of the poverty. A World Health Organization study three

years ago found that 3.8 per cent of children in the critical six-month to two-year age group in Gaza were suffering from "acute" malnutrition. This compares with 2 per cent in the region generally.

The infant mortality rate is another indicator. This has been halved to around 50 per 1,000 in Gaza over the past 25 years but is still the highest of any of the UN camps.

Beyond these physical difficulties are the political ones that add to the desperation of the camp. Gaza is subject to patrolling on a more intense scale than even the West Bank precisely because of the unrest. Residents complain of mid-night calls from the army, of beatings and constant supervision. They have no passports and can travel abroad only with a *laissez-passer* which is hard to obtain.

Let me remind our visitor from Britain, who is rightly appalled by the conditions in the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, that Great Britain this year, as in the past, voted for that ludicrous resolution, which would be a bad joke if it were not so tragic, calling on Israel to return the refugees from decent housing to the camps which Mr Mellor so rightly points out are an affront to civilized values."

He added: "The Arab world has chosen over a period of 40 years to perpetuate this tragic situation for hundreds of thousands of refugees living in festering conditions of squalor and pollution throughout the Middle East, when a couple of days' production in the Arab oil fields could entirely solve this tragic problem and replace the camps with decent housing and living conditions."

He remarked that conditions in Gaza are an affront to civilized values and added: "Something has to be done. The Israeli authorities cannot duck their responsibilities to these people."

"Over the years the Government of Israel has moved

some 10,000 Arab families out of their squalid refugee camps in Gaza to decent housing which they acquired with their own earnings.

The international response to this effort by the Government of Israel to alleviate the problem in Gaza (we are the only country that has endeavored to tackle this problem instead of merely talking about it) has been that every year since 1971 the UN General Assembly has adopted by a vast majority, with only Israel voting against and a few abstentions, an Arab-inspired resolution calling on Israel to put the refugees back into the camps, to return them from homes with running water, electricity and gardens to disease-infested hovels.

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Herzog fury over Mellor

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

President Herzog of Israel lashed out yesterday at remarks made on Monday by Mr David Mellor, Minister of State in the Foreign Office.

The President said during a meeting with a delegation of American rabbis at his home in Jerusalem: "There are times when the unsolicited advice which is given to us by countries who have not solved similar situations any differently seems to me to be somewhat exaggerated."

"Thus I read the comments made by the British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in Gaza yesterday."

"He remarked that conditions in Gaza are an affront to civilized values and added: 'Something has to be done. The Israeli authorities cannot duck their responsibilities to these people.'

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Referendum in Australia

Queen's veto power on federal law faces July test by voters

The Australian Government is expected to call a referendum in July on important changes to the Constitution, including the abolition of the Queen's power to veto federal government legislation.

With a royal visit three months away to mark the Australian bicentenary, the change would be added to the Government's earlier decision to abolish legal appeals to Britain's Privy Council and its refusal to nominate distinguished Australians for knighthoods and honours.

The British monarch's right to veto federal legislation, although never used, is a "residual" power the federal Attorney General, Mr Lionel Bowen, would like to see removed, according to reports here yesterday.

This would bring the law into line with legislation two years ago that abolished the Queen's right to veto legislation by Australia's six state Governments.

Mr Bowen is reported to support stripping the Queen of her right to veto federal legislation up to 12 months after it has been passed by Parliament and given the Governor-General's assent.

But the Queen's position as head of state of Australia remains secure.

Changes to Australia's 87-year-old Constitution have been under discussion for more than two years by a constitutional commission set up by Mr Bowen.

He charged the five commissioners with recommending reforms to the charter providing for a revised framework for Australia's economic and social growth and reflecting the nation's independent and democratic character.

The status of the monarchy, however, was never in doubt. Last August, after very little

From Keith Dalton, Sydney

public debate, an advisory committee to the commission — one of five — recommended that the Queen remain Australia's head of state.

On the more controversial issue of whether Australia should become a republic, the committee deliberately refrained from making a recommendation. But it did acknowledge that there was no prospect of a change in public opinion in the near future.

Fremantle (Reuter) — A 12-hour siege in a jail ended peacefully yesterday when inmates freed five prison officers taken hostage. At the height of the rioting, 130 prisoners set fire to more than 100 cells. Flames engulfed large sections of the prison and the roof of one of the blocks collapsed. The police said they believed the riot had been spontaneous, prompted by heat. The midday temperature on Monday reached 108 deg F (42 deg C), which would result in there being majority support for a republic.

"In view of this, and the fact that for many people the issue is an emotionally charged one, we believe that a recommendation at the present time would detract from other aspects of this report," the committee said.

But while the republic issue has been shelved, Mr Bowen is reported to be anxious to put at least 10 proposed constitutional amendments to the Cabinet in June, soon after the commission's final report.

If approved by both Houses of Parliament, Mr Bowen favours submitting the amendments to the people in July, months earlier than observers had expected. He is allowed six months to call a referendum.

Among the most important

recommendations likely to be put to the Cabinet is a measure to abolish the power of the Senate to block budget Bills. In 1975 this power spawned a constitutional crisis and the dismissal of Mr Gough Whitlam, then Prime Minister, by the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr.

Under the proposed amendment, the Senate would lose this power for the Government's first three years in office.

Blatant gerrymandering of electoral boundaries such as in Queensland, where in some areas a country vote is worth the equivalent of two or more city votes, would be outlawed.

The proposal would ensure that the population difference between electorates is no more than 10 per cent.

The commission recommends constitutionally enshrined political and religious rights rather than a Bill of Rights which may be changed by the Government of the day.

It is speculated that other amendments might be added, in particular, greater political power for the federal Government.

In an interview last year he pointed out that the federal Government had power over taxation and trade, but no overriding power over the economy.

This remains perhaps the most controversial issue among the independent-minded states and the opposition, which sees an electoral advantage in supporting such a cause.

Given the public's low approval rate for past referendums, the Government will need all the support it can muster and so any plan to expand federal government powers could be watered down.

'Big Mama Thatcher' welcomed by Masai



Mrs Thatcher relishing a musical welcome by Masai women yesterday as she visited a self-sufficiency project on the first full day of her Kenyan trip.

From Robin Oakley, Nairobi

On her first full day in Africa since 1979, Mrs Thatcher spent yesterday morning in the arid plains south of Nairobi visiting a self-help project among the nomadic Masai people, and the afternoon in lush, green-terraced hillsides watching tea pickers at work.

Despite her previous reluctance to visit Africa, she clearly enjoyed every minute — and so did her hosts.

Swaying, chanting, foot-stamping Masai women christened her "Big Mama Thatcher" in one of their songs. They liked her, it seems, not least because she brought some much needed rain with her, and they gave her a waist-length beaded necklace to express their gratitude. It makes a change from those inevitable pearls.

Meanwhile Mrs Thatcher was proving the perfect guest. At the Isinya Training Centre she performed what has become her party trick, planting a fig tree, not just with a limp, ceremonial spadeful but by shifting

the entire mound of excavated earth and watering it in firmly. In a country where the men push wheelbarrows while the women stoically carry huge bundles on their backs, she won appreciative murmurs from the Kenyan audience.

Mrs Thatcher is a dream for anxious hosts escorting her around sheep pens, metal workshops, tanneries and tea factories. Her stream of questions never dries up and her appetite for detail never flags, whether she is being shown a huge Boran bull or the camphorwood furniture produced at a youth polytechnic.

The tea estate visit showed again that Mrs Thatcher can spot a camera angle through the back of her neck. She spent so long obliging the lensmen that one local suggested there was a danger she would pick the required top two leaves and bud off the entire field. One Downing Street aide muttered that it was nice to see Fleet Street up to its armpits in the stuff it normally accuses civil servants of spending all day drinking.

When it came to tasting, however, she was not going to oblige the cameras with the shot they wanted. Instead of spitting it out, she demurely swallowed a spoonful of leaves and water. Husband Denis, however, was not so coy. He spat twice, with a grimace that indicated this was decidedly not his accustomed refreshment.

In her second smart silk dress of the day, and still wearing the smile, Mrs Thatcher was given a full tea chest from the Kambaa factory which she told me will mean Downing Street switching its coffee breaks to tea for some months ahead. And the professionalism showed again when both Thatchers were careful to turn round the tea chest to give the Kambaa company the free advertisement its own executives had nearly missed.

Mrs Thatcher is keeping up her usual pace. The evidence came when one of her entourage told a tea picker: "We'd like to leave her behind to help you." I'm not sure he was altogether joking.

What Mrs Thatcher enjoyed was not just the welcome from the crowds and the beauty of the hibiscus, oleander and bougainvillea. Kenyans have all the charm of a Frenchman looking for a conquest or a contract, although in their case, it seems to spring from a well of pure good nature.

But what Mrs Thatcher relished too was the evidence of Africa's leading exponent of the enterprise economy. The Isinya settlement, a joint venture between churches and the Government, has become self-supporting.

"You can't stay on your knees forever," said one organizer to Mr Thatcher.

Of course, all is not as simple as it seemed yesterday. Mrs Thatcher saw boards of shining-eyed schoolchildren in uniform lining her route. She did not see the shantytown survivors hanging on at the edge of society. Kenya faces formidable problems, with half the nation aged under 15 and the population growing faster than anywhere in the world.

Jailed French journalist

Nato fears Paris pact in Kabul

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

As French diplomatic pressure increased on Moscow to help in securing the release of M Alain Guillo, the French journalist jailed for 10 years by an Afghan court for spying, Nato sources have expressed concern that Paris might be prepared to do a deal to secure his early freedom.

Nothing has been said publicly, but it is understood that representations have been made to the French about the dangers that would be posed if France were to use her influence over certain of the Muslim rebel groups fighting in Afghanistan to secure the release of prisoners for the Soviet-backed Kabul regime.

One Western diplomat said: "Following recent precedents set by France in the Middle East, there is a real danger they may be tempted to do a deal."

"Such a move would make life more dangerous for other legitimate journalists operating in Afghanistan who could be falsely arrested by the security forces hoping to use them for future swaps."

The way for a possible deal, which might never be publicized, was opened yesterday when Tass, the official Soviet news agency, reported that M Guillo, aged 45, a reporter and cameraman for the French Sygma agency, could request a pardon directly from President Najibullah, the Afghan leader.

In 1984, a French television reporter, M Jacques Abou-

char, was set free only a week after being sentenced to 18 years in an Afghan jail after his capture while travelling with the Mujahidin guerrillas. At the time, his swift release was put down to successful French pressure on Moscow.

M Guillo is a less well-known figure, but his case has also aroused anger in France.

Tass said yesterday that he had been tried in a closed court because witnesses disclosed secret military, political and economic information. It said that he had been supplied with a lawyer and interpreter six days before proceedings opened.

Pravda said yesterday that M Guillo had been handed

less than the maximum sentence after an appeal from his Afghan lawyer on humanitarian grounds.

Meanwhile, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, was continuing his talks in Kabul. Little information about the substance of his meetings with Afghan leaders, including President Najibullah, was available in Moscow, increasing speculation that he was involved in drawing up a new diplomatic initiative before the next round of United Nations-sponsored peace talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Tass made a swinging attack on US policy towards Afghanistan, linking its criticism to the current visit to Pakistan by the US Under-Secretary of State, Mr Michael Armacost.

● **Peace talks:** The jailing of M Guillo is casting a shadow over the increasingly encouraging prospects for progress at the next round of peace talks on Afghanistan which are expected to be held in Geneva next month (Edward Gorman writes).

The jailing is the latest in a series of disasters for Western journalists entering Afghanistan clandestinely with Mujahidin guerrillas.

In the past three months alone, three journalists — two American and one British — are thought to have been killed.

US pledge on rebel aid

Islamabad (AP) — Mr Michael Armacost, the United States Under-Secretary of State, assured Afghan guerrilla leaders yesterday that America would support them until Soviet troops withdrew from their country. He met five of the seven main guerrilla leaders here.

"I am very happy about the meeting," Mr Syed Ahmed Gili, leader of the National Islamic Front for Afghanistan, said. "It was a very good and very helpful meeting because they (Americans) are supporting our cause. They promised to continue supporting us until Afghanistan is free."

He refused to give details, but said the Americans would continue the support they have given in the past.

The Russians have said they would pull out their forces from Afghanistan only when the US and other countries stopped assisting the rebels.

Mr Armacost, who arrived

Thailand claims to be near victory in Laos border row

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Arguments over a 1907 treaty signed by Bangkok and Paris are behind an increasingly serious border conflict between Thailand and its northern communist neighbour, Laos.

The Thai Army says it has lost 15 men and "hundreds" have been wounded in fighting during the past two months. However, officers at the front concede that casualties have been much heavier.

The Thais have recovered the bodies of eight Lao soldiers, but say many more have been killed. Laos has given no casualty figures.

An official at the Lao Embassy in Bangkok said yesterday that his Government in Vientiane was ready to begin negotiations with Thailand over 30 square miles

of disputed border territory. Vientiane claims that the conflict began with Thai air and artillery attacks on Lao soldiers in Sayaboury Province, while Bangkok says they were attacking 1,000 Lao troops who had invaded Phitsanulok Province.

The Lao Government asked Senior Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, to intervene.

The Thai Army says that it has now recaptured 90 per cent of its territory and, unless the invaders are reinforced, will soon drive them out.

The 1907 treaty between Thailand and France, then the ruling power in Laos, defined the border ambiguously. The watershed of the Heuanang river was fixed as the frontier — but the river has two tributaries,

with almost identical names. Thailand says one tributary marks the border, while Laos claims that the other, five miles west, is correct.

Vientiane says that Lao troops came into the area to protect it from Thai traders, who were stealing teak logs. Several Thais, driving bulldozers to drag the timber away, were killed or wounded in these incidents.

Thai generals claim that Vietnam is encouraging Lao belligerence, and say that Hanoi has troops ready to support Vientiane's forces. But a senior official in the Thai Foreign Ministry said there was no evidence that Vietnam was involved. Hanoi is estimated to have about 50,000 men in Laos.

Roh unlikely to heal northern rift

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

An imminent change of leadership in South Korea is showing promising signs of partially thawing relations with North Korea and its communist neighbours.

But even with his peculiar brand of *glasnost*, Mr Roh Tae Woo, who takes over as President next month, is unlikely to melt the glacier of suspicion and hostility dividing the peninsula.

Mr Roh has alarmed conservative members of the

present Government by suggesting that the United States and Japan might recognize North Korea in advance of China and the Soviet Union recognizing South Korea.

Mr Roh went on to expound a three-phase plan for rapprochement with the communist bloc, beginning with cultural and sporting exchanges, leading to economic co-operation and ultimately, political and diplomatic ties.

The initial response from Pyongyang has been vaguely encouraging. President Kim Il

Sung, the North Korean head of state, said in a new-year message he was ready to talk to the new regime in Seoul and proposed meeting government and other officials.

Independent observers are more wary about future prospects. "We are cautious about reading too much into Mr Roh's statement on cross-recognition," a senior Asian diplomat said. "We think it is a step forward certainly, but not a substantive departure from the established position."

26 Heysel fans seek acquittal

Brussels (AFP) — Preliminary hearings started yesterday in the trial of 29 people charged in connection with the 1985 Heysel soccer stadium riot.

Lawyers representing 26 English fans asked for them to be released, arguing that it was impossible to prove individual murder cases. Legal sources said that some charges may be dropped.

Poisoned pie

Almeria (Reuter) — A woman died and 11 members of her family were seriously ill after eating a meat pie she accidentally poisoned with insecticide which she mistook for sugar.

Ferry sinks

Dhaka — Two people died and more than 100 are missing from a ferry which caught fire and sank after colliding with a cargo boat in the Padma river.

Taiwan racing

Taipei (AFP) — The Government has approved the introduction of horseracing and betting on races in a bid to stop rampant illegal gambling.

Golden voice

Gold Coast, Australia (AP) — Frank Sinatra will earn £555,000 for a one-hour concert at Sanctuary Cove.

China quake

Peking (AP) — Sixty people were injured when an earthquake struck Ningxia province in north-west China.

Nicaraguans' zeal for Sandinista revolution fades into apathy



While a woman Sandinista soldier, left, labours for the revolutionary harvest, the reality for many Nicaraguans is near-empty supermarket shelves and disillusionment.

From James LeMoyné, Managua

A white dove curts toward the sky on a billboard. The words below say simply: "We want peace."

A few blocks away, a statue of a bare-chested worker stares defiantly over the weedy vacant lots, rubble, squatters' shanties and clouds of dust that make up central Managua. The left hand is a fist that stabs an AK47 assault rifle into the sky. "Only the workers and peasants will go to the end," says the dedication etched beneath the main public work of art in the capital of Nicaragua. The plea for peace and the stark celebration of armed class struggle are only two of the currents in Nicaragua's troubled society. Public art and government billboards do not express the exhaustion, apathy and bitterness that appear to affect the Nicaraguan people deeply.

There are many signs that bear witness to the course of the Sandinista revolution, born in 1979 with ecstatic public celebration, remarkable national unity and broad international support for the Nicaraguan people's effort to overthrow the 40 years of American-backed dictatorship by the Somoza family. Eight years later, the Sandinistas are on the defensive. The economy has crumbled. The armed challenge from the US-supported Contras is sharpening, and popular

support for the Government appears to have declined markedly, although there seems to be no immediate threat to the Sandinistas' hold on power.

The Sandinistas are a well-organized party with a strong base of support and control of the police, the army and the main trade unions. They have a Marxist-orientated conception of power. They believe their party should control the Army and the unions, and they incline toward state control of the economy. They are trying to create, with force if necessary, a sense of national purpose and a modern state in a country that has never had either.

But the Sandinistas' power no longer appears to be based on a national consensus. Public opinion polls are illegal. But conversations in the grimy working-class districts of Managua, where residents stand idle in their doorways, give an impression of deep popular discontent among poor people.

Spurred by a limited political opening offered by the Sandinistas in

partial compliance with a new regional peace treaty, 14 opposition parties have formed a united front that includes the Communist and Socialist parties as well as the highly conservative businessmen's association.

President Ortega and other leading Sandinista officials appear worried by the show of opposition unity, and have publicly threatened its leaders, accusing them of being counter-revolutionaries and warning them that their freedom to organize may be revoked.

"The Sandinistas have achieved the impossible," said Señor Carlos Salgado, a Marxist who heads the powerful Socialist Party trade union. "They have united the opposition against them and turned the popular classes into supporters of the right."

The main causes of the Sandinistas' difficulties are much debated. But they include the US-backed guerrilla war, economic pressure, the Sandinistas' one-party conception of power, and their mismanagement of the state-run economy.

Nicaragua is now a society divided into three main groups. First, there is a well-organized ruling minority of Sandinista militants and their ample supporters, backed by a large, party-directed army and police force. They remain gripped by the conviction that radical change is still necessary. Next, there is a smaller minority of Contras and the growing number of their

supporters in rural political circles, who angrily resist the Sandinistas' one-party rule and are showing a new willingness to fight for their conviction. Finally, there is the great mass of the Nicaraguan people, for whom strong belief, except in God, seems to have largely gone — eroded by two decades which have brought an earthquake that destroyed their capital and a successful but bloody insurrection in which 40,000 people were killed.

Now there is the pain of seeing the broad-based opposition to the former dictatorship polarize into a sectarian revolution struggling against Washington and stuck in an internal civil war that has killed and wounded another 40,000 Nicaraguans and helped drive an estimated 500,000 more into internal and external exile.

"It is foolish to believe that the Sandinistas will voluntarily leave power," said a veteran Latin American diplomat here. "The best that can be hoped for is internal change within the ruling party — the pressures today may force the emergence of a new form of Sandinism."

In Managua last week hundreds of Nicaraguans walked in the dust-choked heat of the dry season past the billboard whose white dove soars in search of peace. Few looked up as they sought a place in the long queues waiting for the bus.

New York Times

An acceptable face for coal?

As election day for the miners draws near, Brian James joins the campaign trail of challenger John Walsh. A key factor in the contest for the NUM presidency could be that in the coalfields they have lost the heart for the fight

Apathy, according to the pithead psephologists, will be the factor which will decide whether Arthur Scargill is rejected or returned to lead Britain's miners, the once-muscular now-mauled elite of the union movement. A large vote, runs the theory, will mean triumph for the principle of "our commander, right or wrong", and thus five more years of the Scargill style.

In which case, on observations of the past few days, bookmakers' odds offered at the outset of 3-1 against John Walsh, his only challenger at the National Union of Mineworkers pithead ballot on January 22, now look very generous indeed: his chances, measured on any apathy scale, are improving by the day.

After the holiday hiatus, the campaign has reopened this week and it has been possible to watch Walsh in contrasted situations: the man who would be the new King Coal was a merry enough soul among his friends at one meeting, but had to cut a sterner figure when on the territory of his enemies at another. The single linking factor of these two mining communities was the apparent indifference of all but the handful in the two halls.

In Leicestershire, where he addressed the first open meeting of his campaign, Walsh drew very few of the area's 1,300 surviving in-work miners. One had to drive around Coalville's clocktower time and again on Sunday morning to find anyone who knew where the meeting was to be held.

The first eager two dozen men through the doors of the miners' welfare club turned out to be players of an inter-colliery soccer match. Eventually perhaps 50 gave him an attentive hearing and a warm enough response. In the bar afterwards no more than five sought his company or his views: more gathered around the scores of the soccer match goals.

"We could have done with a few more here," said one NUM official. "But there's no heart left after a year of strike which won us now."

"Union elections? Not bothered," said one drinker, then adding the death-rattle of all little-regarded democracies: "One lot's the same as another in my book."

In Northumberland on Monday night, in an area where 2,500 miners still work, of five men questioned leaving Ashington pit, three admitted they knew of the meeting due two hours later where Scargill and Walsh were to appear for the first time on the same platform: two got the venue wrong. In fact it was in the union hall: a dismal, domed room like an old Royal Flying Corps hangar.

While we waited an official told of the days when the area had 70 mines. Now there are just two, and since the strike they had lost 3,000 members. "Times have really changed," they have indeed. Two of the first few miners to enter were wearing earrings. Eventually perhaps 120 filled all but the front third of the hall.

"They've made up their minds in any case — and I'll not be changed," said a union official. "There's not a lot of hope for us in what either man says. Either way, Ashington's to be shut this year."

If this was a great set-piece battle, it had all the clash and clamour of a Waterloo with water pistols.

Walsh, the 50-year-old full-time union officer and former Rugby League international was first in. Entering the hall alone, he began laying out his election leaflets on every seat like some diligent churchwarden. Scargill, much more knowing, waited 15 minutes until the TV crews had set up their lights and cameras. Only then did he pass among the rows with his posters, brandishing them in front of every lens. "Good opening shot this," enthused the man from the BBC. It so proved.

Walsh appeared to have won the second round, the toss for who was to make the first 20 minute speech, putting Scargill into bat. The current NUM president began with his favourite attacking stroke: a 30-second blast at the media, always good for a laugh. So were his routine excursions into what Walsh's camp calls his "Mike Yarwood Act". This involves mimicking the Midlands accents of officials of the breakaway UDM and how he imagines soft, southern Coal Board men actually speak.

What he has to say he has said before. That he warned there was a hit-list of pit closures, was not believed, but was proved right. That instead of accepting plans for

flexible six-day working, miners should be fighting for a four-day week. That there will never be a place for the leaders of the UDM on the NUM. And that as the Government hated him, the Board hated him, the media campaign had for his opponent, there could be no better reasons for returning him.

It is an old act. But it stands the test. Following as tirelessly as a drill sergeant, swaying from foot to foot like a boxer, the forefingers jabbing home the points. Walsh told me later he was not listening from where he had been sent to the sanctuary of the secretary's office. "Didn't need my ear to the keyhole. He sings same old song to the same old music." Still, he could not hear the three bursts of applause of the final 20 second standing ovation.

Now it was Walsh's turn. "Arthur Scargill says he wants to be judged on his principles and his

record. We've heard plenty about his principles, but precious little about his record." Walsh, the man who followed his father and grandfather down a Yorkshire pit at 15, is educated to economics and knows how to use figures — a skill he now turns on Scargill's six years in office.

"He promised no pit closures; we've lost 100 pits and 100,000 jobs. No more coal imports: they are up from three to 15 million tonnes. A cut-back in nuclear power, from 13.4 million tonnes of coal-equivalent it is now up to 21 million. No sale of Board houses to private sector: they've been sold. No code of conduct. It's here, hurting us."

Gloom became gloomier as Walsh turned to wages. In the past six years inflation had been 34 per cent... general industrial wages had increased 54 per cent, coal productivity had soared 71 per

cent... yet miners' wages had risen just 27 per cent. Or, put another way, every tonne of coal dug six years ago earned the Board £86.25. Every tonne now was worth £164.75, a rise of 91 per cent against the miners' miserable wage rise of half the national average.

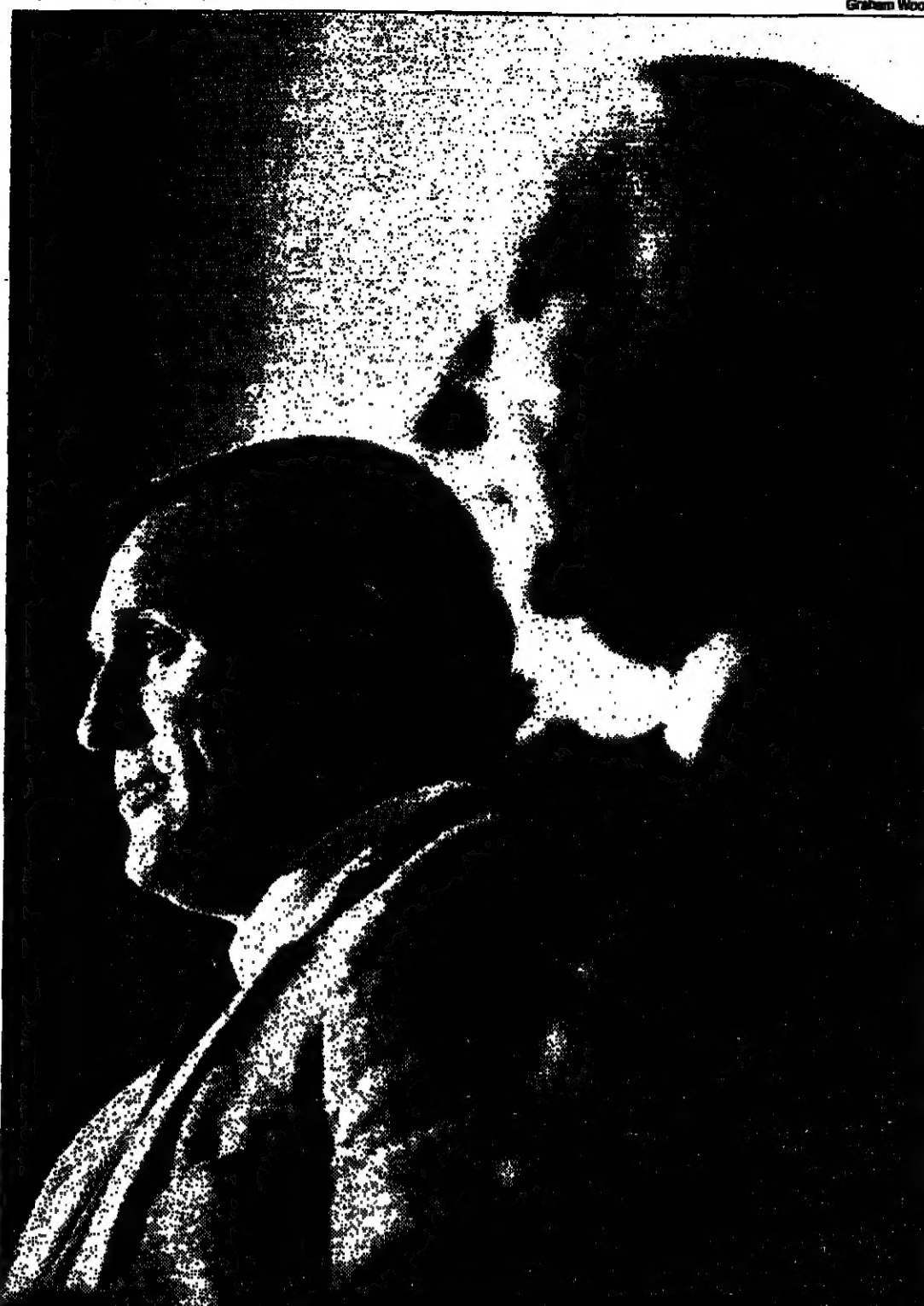
Miners, who were entitled to be top of the wage league, had been betrayed by a leader who believed the way to negotiate was to turn every proposal into a demand, who was bent on confrontation, boasted that he did not mind the consequences; they were ruled by rhetoric and chaos.

It was a good speech. But it was read while Scargill's was performed. And although Walsh still uttered phrases like "in our heart of hearts", "as the 'knows'" and "in us union", as a policy of reasoned advance was given a mere 10 seconds applause: had the old

matters. He thinks it is a tool of his politics, our power to bring the country to a standstill. I don't think, come January 22, the lads will stand for any more of that. I'm more confident than ever."

A miner, whistling in the dark? Perhaps. The Scargill camp claims that 12 out of the 18 areas have declared for their man, and boasts that only two of the 54 branches in the powerful Yorkshire coalfield openly back Walsh. Walsh supporters say it is not branch committees and their smoke-filled room selections that decide, but the rank and file, and they insist "finding a Yorkshireman to say he hates Arthur is like asking in a working class street — where most have now bought their own homes — 'who voted Tory?'. No hands will go up. But does that prove our?"

Walsh's task in the final days of this curiously fragmented election campaign is to persuade miners at meetings in Warwickshire and Derbyshire and Scotland that they should remember not that Scargill alone spoke up for them in the bitter year of futile strife — but what it was that he said. And what he is saying still.



A Waterloo with water pistols: John Walsh and Arthur Scargill have a minor confrontation at Ashington

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On the wing: Malcolm Sparrow, taking his ideas to America

which is being assembled by an American firm. Sparrow is taking out worldwide patents.

Between now and September, when he takes up his classroom duties, he is contracted to co-write two books for Harvard, one a case study of professional ethics for public managers and elected officials, the other on police leadership.

Sparrow believes that high quality human resources are essential to good management. "A manager is responsible for the development of his subordinates, whereas a supervisor merely enforces rules. Most middle-ranking police officers have grown up in the supervision mode."

"The last 10 years have been very worthwhile," Sparrow acknowledges. "But the prospects for the next 10 years would be largely administrative and involve wading through bureaucratic tangle. I

am not convinced that this would be the best use of my talent, nor do I think that it is the best preparation for being a chief constable."

"If I arrived at it by that particular route I'd be a little bit cynical, my brain by no means as creative and energetic as I'd like it to be at that stage. I think I could do more good from the platform provided by Harvard."

Sparrow wants to retain his connections with the British police, and some would like to see him rejoin at a higher rank after a spell in the States. Under the present system, that is not possible.

He admits: "It would take a brave chief constable to make an exception, because of the resentment from senior officers who consider that the only way for promotion is through the ranks, getting experience of command."

Christopher McCooey

Stick with a leech

They may not be cuddly, but they still have friends

Though doctors since the days of ancient Greece employed leeches by the million to bleed patients, most of their treatments were good for neither man nor leech.

Today, however, with its numbers in nature reduced to a remnant, the leech occupies an important place in scientific research. Anti-coagulants in their salivary glands are already being put to use for some heart conditions and they are even used in micro-surgery, allowing surgeons to control bloodflow in localized areas.

Aquatic and wormlike — measuring about 12 cms at full stretch — the medicinal leech, *Hirudo medicinalis*, belongs to a class of invertebrates which feed mainly on the blood of reluctant donors; taking their fill by means of a powerful sucker surrounding the mouth.

In early times doctors used leeches on people with highly inflamed sores or congestion of the veins. But Dr Roy Sawyer, an authority on the creatures' biology and behaviour, says: "Their belief in the effectiveness of leeches reached a peak of absurdity. Stalin, on the night of his death in 1953, was the last historic figure to be leeches but there were many before him."

Dr Sawyer is managing director of Biopharm UK, of Swansea — the world's only leech farm — which maintains 80,000 captive-bred specimens to supply researchers and hospitals. The Prince of Wales visited the farm last month.

"In 1910 the medicinal leech was officially declared extinct in this country, but it was rediscovered at Llangorse Lake, near Brecon, in 1938," Dr Sawyer says. It is now listed as an internationally endangered species and he knows of only half a dozen British ponds where it has been recorded in the last 25 years. "It has vanished from Ireland, though people there once earned a living collecting them."

"Sadly, the leech is not a sympathetic animal — not like the appealing giant panda. And that is an irony because leeches, which are fascinating, have much more to offer us," Dr Sawyer's feelings are shared by Paul Pearce-Kelly, acting head keeper of the insect house at London Zoo, where 30 leeches are on display. "The leeches here are fed fresh blood: my blood, taken by syringe and provided for them in a dish," he says.

Only a little at a time, though. Not in the interests of Pearce-Kelly but of the public. Surely, they would be horrified still instead of looking lively.

John A. Hill

(The Times Newspapers Ltd 1988)

The force without him

Malcolm Sparrow was one of Britain's brightest police officers. At the age of 31 he has a First in maths from Cambridge, a Master's from Harvard, and a PhD from Kent, and all (including himself) were in agreement that he was a chief constable in the making.

But just before Christmas Chief Inspector Sparrow resigned from the Kent police and this week joins the payroll of his American alma mater.

Kent police do not know whether to breathe a huge sigh of relief or to anguish over the loss of an exceptional young man. One senior police officer commented: "Malcolm presented us with a very interesting management problem — an impatient beggar who certainly lived up to the conver-

sation when senior officers got together. At present, the public's perception of the police is of a steady and reliable force. They don't want us to move too quickly and the police are not prepared to run the race as fast as he is."

Sparrow joined the police from Cambridge, choosing Kent because it was said to be one of the most progressive

forces. During his probationary period he was commended by the Chief Constable for arresting 13 criminals from spot checks in the street — "I was keen to prove that I could wheel in the villains" — and in 1981, on the Bramhill accelerated promotion course, he was judged to be the best overall student.

As part of the course work, he began to devise a system of coding fingerprints by computer. A Harkness Fellowship (awarded to "promote international cooperation and identify future leaders") allowed him to continue this work at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington.

Initial results using Sparrow's system for catching criminals were reported in the *New York Times* as "a very significant development". Despite several job offers to work in the US, he was determined to come back and "see what they were going to make of me". He sent details of his work on fingerprints to the Home Office in 1985 — and received neither acknowledgment nor encouragement.

He shrugs this off diplomatically: "With limited resources I suppose they can't experiment with new ideas. I am not bitter about the rejection but I might have been if my ideas had not been picked up in the States."

His knowledge of computer systems came to the attention of Commander John Newing, who was assembling a task force to work on the next generation of the Police National Computer. Sparrow was keen to join the team, but the Chief Constable of Kent turned down the transfer request last January.

As a Harvard don, he will get the opportunity to refine and further develop his system for coding fingerprints, the prototype machine for

Are the police holding back their best and brightest? One who thinks so is taking the fast lane west

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THE TIMES DIARY

Sorry, Solly

A word from Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, was enough to call off pro-South Africa MP John Carlisle's visits to universities before last year's Education Act guaranteed freedom of expression. Although he has decided to sail for again, with engagements at Oxford, Reading and Durham, Carlisle has refused one invitation to speak in the spring at Queen Mary College in London. The reason: Solly Smith, the ANC's chief representative in Britain, will also be on the platform. Although Carlisle has spoken with ANC representatives before, he now castigates the organization for failing to renounce violence and says it is determined to "bomb its way to the negotiating table". His resolve has been stiffened by Mrs Thatcher's description of the ANC, during the Commonwealth conference in Vancouver, as a terrorist organization. Carlisle suggests the college approaches the Southern African Group, the more liberal rival to his own British-South Africa Parliamentary Group, for a substitute.

● A new project for Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal: keeping tabs on the production of an American television film about his life. Filming starts next spring with Ben Kingsley in the main part.

Choice
Have you ever wondered if anyone ever wins prize draw competitions? Dismiss the thought. A recent contest in America was won by 84-year-old Miriam Meade, a nun from a cloistered Carmelite house in Iowa. Sister Miriam was the lucky recipient of a free holiday in Florida for herself, a spouse, children and a babysitter. Not everyone was pleased, however. According to the head of her community, it all smacked of "hocus pocus" - Sister Miriam had not entered the competition. So that's how you do it.

● A New Year present I can manage without, thanks, is the disc just recorded on behalf of Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of France's far right National Front party, entitled *Blas, Blanc et Rouge* (as in the flag). It features vaguely martial music with some execrable lyrics, and is presumably intended to boost his presidential election campaign. At least the gravel-voiced Le Pen himself doesn't sing. Meanwhile an underground group calling itself *L'Affront National* has recorded an anti-racist response - not quite Top Twenty material but at least with enough rhythm for dancing.

No messing
In an exuberant will published yesterday, Peter Newton, a medieval stained glass expert who died in November, has left his valuable library to the University of York, where he taught. He adds an "abolition and strict condition, which is in no way to be altered in the slightest degree" - that the stuff is kept together with the library bequeathed by his own tutor. If the university refuses to accept the stipulation, he adds, "then the university, i.e. its officers of the moment, are bloody fools". Newton also left £100 for sale at a posthumous rigger or derigging party at his yacht club, and he left his share of a yacht to a pal, Mark Thorne, whose son he instructs to name his first son with the second and third names of "Wolfgang Peter".



Barry Fantoni

Blockage
So much for the Department of Health's Mission to Explain, junior minister Edwina Currie, who dropped her husband in it over Christmas when he drove her home after a beer or two, has done it again. Promoting the next No Smoking Day on March 9, she slipped yesterday that her husband, Ray, had coincidentally given up on No Smoking Day last year - without even realizing there was such a day. He had apparently thought about giving up at the start of the year but took until March 11 to do so. Despite the fact that the garrulous Mrs C had already held her post for six months by then, it appears that her spouse was unaware of DHSS anti-smoking exhortations. They must make you deaf.

With the Upper House assuming a more significant legislative role, Max Beloff argues that Westminster's division of duties must change

A lord for every ministry

The problem of Lord Whitelaw's physical fitness for the arduous job of leading the House of Lords has focused attention upon the problems that the government faces in carrying through the Upper House its large and contentious legislative programme. But to limit discussion to the quality or assiduity of Conservative working peers as compared with their Labour counterparts - some of whom have also disappointed their leaders - is to miss the essentials. What really is at issue is whether in dealing with the House which now sees for itself a more active role as a revising chamber, the government - any government - can afford the present distribution of responsibilities between the two Houses.

Apart from the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Advocate, to handle bills dealing with legal matters, only the Department of Trade and Industry is represented in the Lords by a cabinet minister who can speak with full authority. Five departments have ministers of state: the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Home Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Department of the Environment and the Scottish Office.

Agriculture is represented by a parliamentary secretary, and four departments - Education and Science, Health and Social Security (both in the front line and likely to remain so) Transport and Northern Ireland - are represented by parliamentary under-secretaries. Four departments - the Treasury (which now includes responsibility for the Civil Service), Employment, Energy and

the Welsh Office - have no minister at all. To deal with their business, there are the deputy chief whip and five lords in waiting, i.e. assistant whips. It is often pointed out that these tend to be the youngest hereditary peers, but it would be odd if it were otherwise. The position of lord in waiting is not a congenial one. He may have on behalf of the department to answer questions from opposition spokesmen of some seniority, and with their own ministerial experience, to whom he can often only say that he will pass on their observations to his minister.

But quite apart from this duty, and their involvement on the government side in the legislative process, they have other duties - the boring one of taking turns at the "gate", i.e. making sure that there are enough government peers around to win any likely divisions - these cannot be timed as they are in the House of Commons - and to prevent the House from being "counted out". Finally, there are the duties connected with the royal household. Can one imagine someone who has done well in the House of Commons or in some non-parliamentary occupation willingly spending his time driving to Heathrow to welcome the Akond of Swat on behalf of Her Majesty? What Labour would do about lords in waiting if they ever came into office again hardly bears thinking about.

The fate of parliamentary under-secretaries is not all that much better. In the House of Commons, they have always the

minister to fall back upon for assistance; in the House of Lords, for immediate purposes, they are the ministers - but one wonders whether the Civil Service has fully realized the implications of this fact in current circumstances. How far are they in all cases treated as being part of a ministerial team which was not historically their role?

Of course the government does something to remedy this weakness where legislation is concerned. And that is where the working peers come in. For each bill the minister in charge can recruit a group of backbenchers to help with its passage, through taking upon themselves some of the burden of the committee and report stages.

This device seems to have been overlooked by parliamentary correspondents because of the rather simple fact that whereas the opposition parties can and do summon to their front benches their spokesmen on particular issues, Conservative peers, who are in fact speaking equally for their party under quasi-official auspices, do so from their own places.

If this fact were taken into account, the apparently greater weight of the opposition front benches would seem less striking. It would also to some extent absolve some (not all) Conservative working peers from the charge that they are not doing the work they were sent to the House to perform. (The work of the science and technology committee and the European Communities committee, which is again largely

invisible to the media, can also be a major call on their time.) But of course a backbench peer, however well briefed by the minister, cannot do more than argue the case for a clause as it stands at the particular stage. Only the minister can indulge in the complex bargaining between government and opposition which is an essential part of the revising process.

Since the recent infusion of former cabinet ministers, it can no longer be said that the Conservative Party has a less distinguished membership in the Upper House than the opposition parties - if this ever was true. In general debates, whether on the economy, foreign affairs or defence, the Conservatives can more than hold their own. But former cabinet ministers cannot become lords in waiting or even under-secretaries. The legislative problem demands a more radical solution than a new input of politically experienced Conservative life peers.

Where the jam has to stick

Digby Anderson

When I come down to London from north Buckinghamshire, I prefer to drive the train as it is filthy, crowded, at this time of year very cold, and, regardless of the weather or season, always late. There is, unfortunately, no suitable coach. I drive to Finchley Road, take my collapsible bicycle from the boot, and cycle to the office. The car journey should take about 45 minutes. In the three weeks before Christmas it was taking anything up to three hours. As we get back to normal working after the Christmas break, the time is starting to lengthen again.

For two years or more, the M1 has been chaotic; not only slow but unpredictably so. Predictable journey times are supposed to be the virtue of motorways. The journey is brightened by various hazard signs usually left on after the hazard, such as fog, is long gone (radio announcements are similarly out of date).

Finchley Road is fun: the bus lane is always blocked by a British Telecom or Gas van: both companies appear to be able to go, or more often remain stationary, wherever they wish, to everyone else's disruption.

The great joy of being both a cyclist and a car driver is that while cycling one can swear at all the silly things car drivers do (cutting across cyclists) and while driving swear at the cyclists (weaving in and to the left of stationary traffic) - successfully taking both roles. It is impressive how swiftly one gets used to and enjoys the contradictions. The reason for the bicycle is that traffic in London itself has also become impossibly slow and unpredictable. There is a limit to the amount of the working day one can give over to travel or be prepared to allow for travel possibly taking up.

On good days one relishes the frustrations and even starts to collect obsessions. I hate milk floats with a passion I no longer thought possible. Why is it that these slow, frequently-stopping relics are sent out daily, stuffed with milk that keeps four weeks, in order to cause jams which increase with every delivery? I also hate ladies who drive their children 500 yards to school or, worse, wait for them in their cars in the middle of the road. Do them both good to walk. I've lost half a stone cycling; everyone should.

Some obsessions are more economic: on my frequent journeys to Kent I wonder why the price of the Dartford tunnel has not been increased to match the increased demand. Like the NHS, there will always be more demand than space on popular roads while roads are unpriced.

None of this will be news to the many people who live and work and travel around London, though each will have nurtured his pet obsessions. But that is the point. I have checked in the office, in the pub, in the restaurants and sand-

wich shops at lunch. Everyone is very angry about the roads into and in London. They are fed up with giving over hours of their life to unproductive travel. They are fed up, when they have lunch meetings elsewhere in London, with having to allow two hours for the travel there and back in case it takes that long. How much of the working day is being lost to the jams is anyone's guess.

So this is a genuine problem: you see it simply by looking out of the window. It is also felt to be a problem. To judge by the talk and level of complaint and abuse, people, that is voters, are much more interested in it than they are in the INF, CAP or the Baker bill. Yet it receives next to no political attention and next to no media coverage. During the worst traffic congestion I have seen in the last month the motoring correspondents twittered about "sweet and easy gearboxes" on Korean cars or uncritically reproduced the questionable propaganda on drink-driving by the minister "responsible for roads and traffic".

The worth of that campaign is a matter we can discuss another day - the claims for its success are highly dubious and should be corrected by one motoring correspondent's recent admission that 20 years of state propaganda has been so ineffective that there is still "extraordinary ignorance as to what constitutes the legal limit". What is of immediate import is why the minister pursues these dubious campaigns so energetically. Cynics say that campaigns offer ministers such as himself and Mrs Currie a chance to promote themselves using the mass media of the campaign. I think it is to detract attention.

For the truth is that Mr Bottomley is at risk. He is the minister-responsible-for-jams. They are his fault. He runs a public service and very busy one. Every day his service inflicts frustration on millions of people. Every day it interferes with the economic growth that his fellow ministers urge. Yet the complaints about it seem curiously unfocused. They are not yet complaints about him.

It is time they were. In 1988 it is time that travellers and taxpayers stopped permitting him constantly to harangue us on our shortcomings and worked up a campaign to persecute him. Perhaps either the AA or the RAC could be persuaded to stop, for a moment, sending their members insurance schemes and maps and goodness knows what else they don't want, and get on with leading it.

If it works we will not only get better travel, but Bottomley, or perhaps his successor, will be so busy ensuring it that he won't have time to run the questionable campaigns that he evidently enjoys so much.

The author is Director of The Social Affairs Unit.

Anthony Parsons considers British policy in the light of the Gaza dispute



Why Mellor was right to speak out

The Palestine problem has been a hornet's nest of emotion ever since 1917, and Mr David Mellor, by his comments in the West Bank and Gaza, has succeeded in scrambling squadrons of hornets into the air. Since these fauna are not the ideal mediators of international disputes, it is important to introduce some proportion into the tide of public comment.

To start with, I do not for a moment believe that we are in a situation either where "Foreign Office Arabists" have conned a recently appointed minister into making incautious remarks which he will later regret, nor that the minister has shot his mouth off, leaving officials to scurry about picking up the pieces. Mr Mellor will have tough talks with Israeli ministers, but the fabric of Anglo-Israeli relations will stand, just as it has withstood previous exchanges of verbal buffets.

As regards the relationship between officials and ministers, I have no doubt that the normal process of official advice and ministerial decision was carried through before Mr Mellor set out on this trip, but this clearly cannot extend to the exact terms of impromptu remarks made to television and radio reporters when visiting a refugee camp. In a nutshell I would be surprised if the calm of Whitehall has been much disturbed by this affair, regardless of the nature and volume of the public comment.

Anyone who has followed the Arab-Israeli dispute closely over the past year or so must be aware that the British government has become increasingly concerned over the stagnation of the so-called "peace process", over the deepening despair and frustration of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, over the apparently indefinite continuation of Israeli military occupation with its concomitants of denial of political, economic and social rights, let alone the right to self-determination, and over the dangers to regional, even to world peace inherent in the persistence of this combustible mixture.

A study of public statements, including one made by Mrs Thatcher on her visit to Israel in 1986, confirms that the Israeli leadership can be in no doubt of British views, unwelcome though

these may be to some of them. It seems to me that it is not so much the content of Mr Mellor's remarks but their forthright and highly publicized nature which has stirred up the hornets. As a politician nurtured in the electronic age, Mr Mellor must have known what he was doing, although I dare say that he found conditions in the Jabalya camp even more shocking than his briefing had prepared him for. I have not seen this camp myself but a close member of my family was there last summer and her description tallied closely with that of Mr Mellor.

In terms of content, what did the Minister of State say that was so dramatic? He said that the decision of the Israelis to deport Palestinian activists was contrary to international law. Since 1967 successive British governments have maintained that the Fourth Geneva Convention applies to the occupied territories. In summary there should be no alteration in the status quo in territories under foreign military occupation.

By the same token successive British governments have for example rejected the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem and the extension of Israeli law to the Golan Heights and have been consistently critical of the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. Israel does not accept the application of the convention, but there is nothing new in Mr Mellor's statement of the British position.

He also criticized the Israelis for failing to improve conditions in Jabalya. This is more controversial, but those directly responsible must be prepared to accept praise or blame in all circumstances and there is no doubt that, whatever

however... Pearson Phillips

Barking up the wrong duvet

I have not peered into many Cotswold bedrooms but a few casual observations lead me to believe that, particularly during these cold winter nights, a surprisingly high percentage of double beds around my way have a Labrador snoring among the other occupants.

This could be why much local interest has been aroused by the marital upset of a West Midland dog addict called Jacqueline Stewart and her husband George. What George did was to utter the fatal ultimatum: "Either the dogs go or I do." I could have told him the answer to that. His wife was frank enough to come out with the words that most other women only dare to hint at: "A dog is better than a man".

This is something all men have got to accept. I learnt long ago that the triangle of man plus dog plus dog-loving woman is not an equilateral one. Dogs will always get a disproportionate share of any loving glances, affectionate hugs or fond and foolish words that happen to be available for distribution.

A dog as men will be reminded, is for life. A man is just a "relationship" which can "run its course". Whoever heard of a woman telling her pet "it's over"? But what about all those distressing animals that end up in the Battersea Dogs Home? Their problem, I would guess, is that they never had what is significantly termed "a proper mistress". How should men deal with this situation? Submission to the status quo is the only answer. Join in the worship. Taking on a few dog-like characteristics may help. The unfortunate Mr Stewart's big mistake was in being called George. I never heard of a dog called George. Something short and explosive is best. According to veterinary statistics Sam is the favourite, followed closely by Ben. Always answer when called.

Of course you will have learnt the command "sit" from an early age. You will also have discovered how to look suitably cowed, crestfallen and abashed when returning home if the temptations of an unauthorized chase after stray game have proved too strong to be resisted. Come to heel at once. It is also a good idea to learn how to bring things to hand on the command "Fetch", reading glass-

es, a gin and tonic, "my cigarettes". This should give you some advantage over your rival. For I never yet heard of a dog that could make a decent jug of Bloody Mary. It's no use being jealous or sulky. Leave that to the dogs. One of mine once noticed that its mistress responded rather too warmly to a handsome visitor who happened to be wearing a uniform. That dog was the gentlest of animals, but anyone wearing anything that looked like a uniform was anathema after that. This included people dressed in dinner jackets, a fact which was discovered only when he was taken surreptitiously and illegally to a performance of *Don Giovanni* at Glyndebourne. He spent the picnic interval trying to clear the gardens of fastidious opera-goers.

The uniform ban also affected our well-turned Labrador. When a letter of protest arrived from the Postmaster we stuck it on the wall above the dog basket. The dog duly ate it.

It is the bedroom which usually turns out to be the main battlefield in this triangle. A heavy weight at the end of the bed is just about bearable, even comforting, but that was never enough for my late-lamented yellow Labrador. He would wait until the small hours before crawling under the sheets and lying back with his head on the pillow like everyone else. If he had been a quiet sleeper even that might not have been impossible. But he used to dream about rabbits. Many a night everyone would be awoken by yelps and squeals coming from an unexpected head on the pillow. Then, of course, he would have to be calmed down, told everything was all right, and hushed gently back to sleep.

One husband I heard about thought he had won the bedroom battle when the family terrier got too desperate to make the leap on to the bed. But one night he prosecuted himself to search for a slipper. Seeing this the dog jumped on his back. From there he was able to make it to the soft, warm, ciderdown heaven. From then on that man found himself kneeling down every night in order to provide the dog with a mounting block.

I suppose we should be grateful that they don't want to bring the horse mite into the bed.

Sir Anthony Parsons was ambassador to Iran, 1974-79, and permanent representative at the United Nations, 1979-82.

Anderson
the jam
to stick

سكنا في المدين



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GORBACHOV'S PSYCHIATRISTS

Five years ago the Soviet Union withdrew from the World Psychiatric Association, angrily rejecting Western charges that it misused psychiatry for political purposes. Now, nearly three years into Mr Gorbachov's time in office, the Soviet Government has approved legislation governing the procedures under which people are committed to psychiatric hospitals and protecting their rights while they are there.

The Soviet authorities will deny that there is any connection between the two events. They will deny either that the new provisions amount to an admission of failings in the past or that they have been framed in response to pressure from abroad. Yet Moscow is unlikely to have conceded that the rights of individuals in mental hospitals needed to be protected at all without having been shamed into it.

The appearance of such legislation on the Soviet statute book is, therefore, a tribute to Western and Soviet campaigners like the British scholar, Dr Peter Reddaway, of the Kennan Institute, Dr Anatoly Koryagin, who was allowed to emigrate last year after having been imprisoned for documenting Soviet psychiatric abuses, and to the many other victims of Soviet psychiatry. It also provides evidence that persistent, well-supported agitation can have an effect, especially at a time when the Soviet authorities are as sensitive to world opinion as they are at present.

The passing of legislation, however, is less than half the battle. Soviet citizens are already hedged about by a mass of protective legislation, the efficacy of which extends little further than the printed page. The Soviet Constitution has been described as the most democratic in the world. In theory, it is. There are emigration provisions which allow anyone with relatives abroad to join them; they cannot. There are freedoms of assembly and expression which should permit believers to practise their religion, and representatives of

minority nationalities to preserve their culture; this is not the case.

These contradictions between theory and practice have provided fruitful ground for Soviet and Western campaigners. Moscow has responded by re-codifying many laws. Yet many Soviet citizens have no access to the law; their path is blocked by local Communist Party officials who determine who may approach the courts, and often the verdict too. If the odds in the lower courts are so stacked against the plaintiff, the possibility of appealing higher is minimal.

With complaints about psychiatric abuse the difficulties are, if anything, greater. Despite a number of recent Soviet press articles detailing individual cases, some Soviet officials and doctors still deny that abuses occur. One of them is Georgy Morozov, who heads the Serbsky Institute, where many of the most flagrant abuses have taken place. So long as Morozov is in place, the argument is not over.

Nor have any of the Soviet press exposés dealt with directly political cases. They have concentrated rather on people who have been victimised by relatives or local officials. Those who have campaigned against the system as such have as yet found no public supporters among Soviet journalists. Meanwhile, there are still people in the Soviet political and medical establishment who sincerely believe that dissent from the line of the Communist Party amounts to insanity.

The new Soviet laws look, above all, like a bid by the Soviet Union to regain its membership of the World Psychiatric Association. Such a move would accord with Moscow's present interest in resuming participation in international forums and regaining international respectability generally. The WPA should require proof that the new legislation is actually working before they reverse their stand.

WHY A WOMAN COULD

Monday's carefully pre-publicized *Panorama* — like much of the fuss surrounding her overtaking of Asquith — turned out to be less about the Prime Minister than about the sex war. Inevitably, much of the evidence was taken from ex-ministers who had fallen foul of Mrs Thatcher; but even Lord Hailsham, who had not, compared her to Queen Elizabeth I.

Sir John Hoskyns, less flatteringly, asserted that "she used the fact she was a woman very powerfully to get her way". Another witness (not hostile) thought that the key to her particular brand of cabinet-government (i.e., it was implied, non-cabinet government) was the fact that women were not "clubbable". Sir Frank Cooper has gloomy memories of a dinner with her, she being the only woman present, and of a whispered request from a fellow guest to call the SAS to get them out. President Reagan's affection for her has similar overtones. He quoted with approval her remark that women always knew when men were behaving like children.

So this is what it has all been about. A female outsider of relatively humble origins (Sir John Nott introduced the "class" theme by saying that she could not get on with "gentlemen") captured the leadership of the Tory party. Then, by unscrupulously behaving as a woman rather than a man, by thoroughly unfair means in fact, she took control of the party establishment and proceeded to pick it off one by one until she had secured a government, largely composed of upstarts like herself, who would conform to her will and espouse her radical causes. The atmosphere of injured masculine pride generated by the programme almost brought tears to the eyes.

It was not a programme which will do much harm to the Prime Minister's reputation. She came over as determined, bossy and possibly arrogant, but these qualities are far less offensive to the general public than they are to senior politicians. Most people do not think

that it is a very bad thing to have a prime minister who insists on having a cabinet that will agree with her, or even a prime minister who will get rid of colleagues (as Lord Havers observed) whom she thinks to be no longer up to their jobs.

"Good on her!" will be the ordinary public response to such adverse criticisms, if adverse they were intended to be. She is not given to compromise, *Panorama* suggested. But neither, it would seem, is the electorate. The image of her as an authoritarian, ungovernable woman which this programme projected is the very one which, with extraordinary shrewdness, Mrs Thatcher has sought to achieve for herself.

Yet it is doubtful whether historians in the future will wholly subscribe to the portrait which *Panorama* painted on Monday. This unbending lady has compromised often — on Rhodesia, on Ulster, at times on the economy. Many of her pet fads or cherished beliefs have gone by the board. What is astonishing is that she has preserved throughout the reputation for inflexibility which she so loves.

Much even of her reputation as a ruthless handler of colleagues arises from her own character rather than the characters of the colleagues concerned. Many of them began by despising her and thought that they could patronize her. For a long time, she bore public and semi-public criticism from cabinet colleagues with a patience unsurpassed by any of her male predecessors. No wonder that, when circumstances became propitious, she wielded the axe.

The truth is that the inherited handbook of Tory political wisdom contains no recipe for coping with a woman leader. Lord Whitelaw, alone of the old Tories, seemed able to do so, although Lord Carrington thought he could. Discarded colleagues are, therefore, left to sing their lament: "Why can't a woman be more like a man?"

THEFT BY OTHER NAMES

Towards the end of last year two cases came up in succession before lay magistrates at Woking Magistrates' Court. One case involved a woman pleading guilty to stealing a few poundworth of goods from a shop, the other a woman pleading guilty to defrauding the Department of Health and Social Security of £1,900. Both were living on social security and both were first offenders. The shoplifter was fined £75; the fraud was given a conditional discharge.

The result did not surprise DHSS prosecutors. It is their experience that, while shoplifting is generally considered by lay magistrates to be worthy of punishment, cheating the DHSS is frequently regarded with a certain sympathy, even equanimity. So many offenders have received a token sentence, or none at all, that the DHSS is discouraged from prosecuting any but a tiny fraction of the fraudulent claimants that it manages to catch.

The logic behind the attitude of lay magistrates is not clear. Claiming benefit money under false pretences is not a "victimless" crime; the victim is the taxpayer, who is providing billions of pounds a year to pay for those who genuinely cannot provide for themselves. Nor is it an uncommon crime, which does not need public examples to be made for the sake of deterrent. Last year, 10,000 prosecutions were brought by the DHSS. Thousands more false claimants were discovered, but escaped punishment except for having to repay the sum involved. In the last 12 months known frauds worth £50 million have been detected.

The overall incidence of social security fraud is impossible to calculate. Very often it is uncovered only because neighbours or acquaintances with a grievance write anonymous letters of denunciation to the DHSS. But when investigations are undertaken, the evidence suggests that in the south of England,

where jobs are plentiful, large numbers of claimants are cheating. Last summer the Department of Employment investigated the cases of 4,400 people on unemployment benefit in towns along the south coast. More than a quarter were found to have jobs. Of these, the Department of Employment intends to consider only 70 cases for prosecution, of which perhaps a third will end up in court.

Given this process of selection, which excludes all but the most reprehensible, magistrates might be expected to take a tough line. Not so. The maximum sentence at their disposal, a short prison term, is scarcely ever employed. Neither is community service, the recommended alternative to prison, which might seem ideally suited to social security cheats. The DHSS prosecution department has considered whether more cases should be classified as theft and taken to the crown court, where defendants can expect rather less lenient treatment. But prosecuting in the crown court is an expensive option.

Attention has been focused on benefits fraud this week with the announcement that the Department of Employment, emboldened by its success on the south coast, intends to mount a new drive against false claimants. This exercise would have more bite if the DHSS could be certain that those who are eventually prosecuted are properly sentenced.

In the long term the Lord Chancellor might wish to consider whether the Scottish court system, which restricts the jurisdiction of lay magistrates to only the lowest levels of crime, might provide a more satisfactory system of justice in this and other instances. In the short term lay magistrates should at least be given clear guidance on sentencing for benefits fraud. Social security cheating is not likely to diminish when those who are caught are seen, too often, to get away with it.

Seeking route out of London jams

From Mr Malcolm Buchanan
Sir, The dismissal by Sir Alfred Sherman (article, January 2) of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner's imaginative call for some kind of peak-hour entry permit or charge for those wishing to drive their cars to central London tilts at many windmills but misses the essential point. This is that at present fuel prices and parking charges, the demand for the use of private vehicles in central London will always at peak times greatly exceed the supply of road space available.

This is true whether or not we have the rail subsidies which Sir Alfred deplores, whether or not any of the urban motorways which Sir Alfred favours are built, and whether central London expands or declines as Sir Alfred thinks it should. The implication and visible result of this mismatch of demand and supply is that motorists queue rather than pay to use central London road space.

The congestion has been estimated to cost about £1 billion per annum in wasted time, extra vehicle-operating costs, bus subsidies and policing and enforcement costs and is steadily spreading throughout the day and throughout London.

The new Metropolitan Police Commissioner is wise to point out that there are other ways. Permit systems are one option — Milton has recently reduced its peak-hour central area traffic by 50 per cent by such measures and this has been supported by public opinion. But to go to the heart of the problem we need a fresh look at the way in which all vehicles pay for roads and parking in London and a new charging system which imposes a more effective price mechanism between the supply of road space and the demand for its use.

Such a system could significantly reduce congestion in central London and elsewhere, could improve bus services and reduce subsidies, could help to raise revenue for much-needed road improvements and could enable commercial vehicles and those who really need to use private cars to do so at reasonable speeds and with some certainty as to how long their journeys will take. Yours sincerely, MALCOLM BUCHANAN, 2 Eaton Rise, WS.

From Mr B. J. Goodchild
Sir, Anyone who has surveyed a typical rush-hour traffic queue in the London area will be aware that the bulk of it consists of private cars, many carrying only the driver. Yet in arguing that commuters

should meet the full costs of their journeys, Sir Alfred Sherman appears concerned only with users of public transport.

He ignores that most incongruous subsidy represented by the tax privileges on company cars. Your Economics Correspondent reported these (November 17) as costing the Government £1.1 billion a year in lost revenue.

Surprising, too, that Sir Alfred should not suggest any measure to reduce the motorist's perceived costs more directly to the length of his journeys like those of the bus or rail traveller. An obvious step would be to increase petrol duty substantially, at the same time abolishing other road taxes.

A more sophisticated alternative, but surely no longer a technical impossibility, would be a road-charging system for London and other conurbations which reflected the costs of congestion by taking account of time as well as distance travelled.

Yours faithfully, B. J. GOODCHILD, 36 Hinton Road, Wallington, Surrey, January 4.

From Mr Michael Welbank
Sir, Sir Alfred Sherman's wistful musings covered a very wide range of issues without ever coming up with any solution. The assurance that he sought, that someone somewhere is thinking systematically about these problems, just cannot be given. He should not be at all surprised at this, since there is no one today charged with such a responsibility. Keeping off the GLC is a somewhat strong remedy to overcome a few political problems.

Strategic planning, regional planning — call it what you will — is essential for the confident and successful provision of urban transportation systems and indeed for all the other key operational services of a major city. We do not have such planning in our capital city.

We are left with a myriad of fragmented organisations and warring pressure groups, all claiming to be able to solve the problems of London. In all this ordinary people suffer, the crude interaction of market forces can never be effective in ensuring the delivery of urban services to acceptable standards to the whole community.

London deserves good planning. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL WELBANK, Director, Sharncliffe Co., (Urban and Regional Planners), Blake House, Admirals Way, E14, January 4.

Royal Family duties

From Mr T. C. M. O'Donovan
Sir, I have carried out a survey of the engagements performed by the Royal Family during 1981, as reported in the Court Circular.

The Queen	1	2	3	4	5
Duke of Edinburgh	128	117	27	32	54
The Queen Mother	40	32	12	22	54
Prince of Wales	174	120	22	218	33
Princess of Wales	147	29	4	180	17
Duke of York	51	23	3	132	36
Princess of York	37	23	3	62	20
Prince Edward	20	18	3	46	67
Princess Margaret	95	25	9	129	17
Princess Anne	37	13	14	64	3
Duke of Gloucester	78	21	12	113	23
Duchess of Gloucester	84	24	3	111	8
Duke of Kent	83	29	19	107	13
Duchess of Kent	84	18	5	107	18
Princess Alexandra	65	19	9	93	33

1. Official visits, opening ceremonies, official receptions.
2. Receptions, lunches, dinners, banquets.
3. Other engagements including investitures, meetings, audiences.
4. Total number of engagements in UK.
5. Number of days abroad on official tours.

On official tours abroad the Queen carried out 87 engagements, the Duke of Edinburgh 192, the Prince of Wales 167, the Princess of Wales 86, the Duke and Duchess of York 76 each, Prince Edward 70 and the Princess Royal 337.

Yours faithfully, T. C. M. O'DONOVAN, Mariners, The Avenue, Datchet, Berkshire, January 4.

Rewards in the City

From the Chief Executive, Action Resource Centre
Sir, May I add to the remarks of the Mayor of Tynbyne Hall (December 24).

The unfortunate truth is that, with some honourable exceptions, businesses in the City of London and elsewhere believe that the desperate needs which Mr Lee Williams describes are marginal to their mainstream business concerns. If they perceive any connection at all, it will be through the charity committee; this often reinforces the sense of marginality, because causes are "donated to" rather than "invested in".

However, businesses will reap the rewards of an investment in a stable social environment for their employees and for their own operation. My own organisation offers company employees dev-

Third World books

From the Director of the Ranfurly Library Service

Sir, The desperate shortage of books in the Third World and its impact on the Commonwealth countries of southern and East Africa was compellingly described by Mr Christopher Martin (January 2).

The Ranfurly Library Service (RLS) is a charity whose purpose is to collect useful surplus books in the UK for distribution overseas, usually by the National Library Service or Ministry of Education. Books are sent in response to requests; although 13 million books have been despatched since RLS began in 1954, and current output is around 50,000 books a month, demand massively outstrips supply. RLS ensures that books are relevant to needs by employing staff with recent appropriate experience in recipient countries.

While RLS works closely with the British Council, the Library Association and the Overseas Development Administration, and provides a supplement to the Government's book aid programme, much more is needed.

Yours faithfully, SARA HARRITY, Director, The Ranfurly Library Service Ltd, Coldharbour Place, 39/41 Coldharbour Lane, Camberwell, SE5, January 4.

elopment and training opportunities through assignments and secondments of a few hours to six months and more. These can be closely related to company training and development objectives, while injecting much-needed skills into the local community, addressing some of their training and learning needs.

It is a comment echoing Alan Lee Williams's sentiment that of over 100 such opportunities available to companies in London in 1981, only a small number have been filled. In particular, not a single vacancy in the area served by Tynbyne Hall has been taken up.

Yours faithfully, MARGARET HYDE, Chief Executive, Action Resource Centre, CAP House Third Floor, 9/12 Long Lane, EC1, December 29.

New-style teachers

From Mr Ian M. Dorton

Sir, In your report on December 29 that the Government is planning to improve the teaching profession by encouraging redundant executives, retired police officers, former miners and the like to move into education. I have been in the profession for 12 years now and in that time I have seen enough middle-aged/mature faces coming into teaching in the belief that they had failed at other things, but teaching was easy.

What is needed is an influx of young, able and, most important, committed teachers. The only way to achieve this is to make the profession attractive to the talented university-leaver. An influx of middle-aged business casualties is not the answer. Teaching is a profession which requires time to learn the art and relevant skills. Yours faithfully, IAN M. DORTON, 1 Hall Place Cottages, Stone Street, Sevenoaks, Kent, December 30.

At odds over funding the NHS

From Professor George Jones and Mr Tony Travers

Sir, There can have been few climb-downs more swift and unexpected than the Government's recent decision (report, December 17) to pump extra resources into the National Health Service. After a few lobbies of Downing Street and well-publicised incidents involving patients, and a single Gallup poll, cash was on offer, despite the Government's constant assertions that it had been putting more money than ever into the NHS.

One of the present Government's most distinctive features so far has been its readiness to stand up to vested interests, whether miners, teachers, lawyers, opicians, farmers, trade unions, universities, local authorities or, for that matter, terrorists. That such a government should give in so feebly to corporate power is odd indeed. Have we on this occasion returned to the corporate state of the 1970s, from which the Government promised to rescue us?

Yours faithfully, GEORGE JONES (Professor of Government), TONY TRAVERS (Research Director, Greater London Group, London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, WC2, December 31).

From Professor M. H. Irving and others

Sir, In the mid-1970s we were appointed to professorial chairs in the University of Manchester for the specific task of establishing a third teaching hospital for Britain's biggest medical school. The Manchester Medical School was expanded to provide improved medical services for the underprivileged and under-doctored people in this part of the United Kingdom.

With the enthusiastic support of our medical, nursing and ancillary colleagues, we have turned Hope Hospital into a university hospital renowned not only for its undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and clinical research but also for its services to the people of Salford and, through its tertiary referral practice, to the people of the North-west. We have done so in an economical fashion without accumulating the large infrastructure of supporting staff characteristic of traditional teaching hospitals. As a result, we under-

Pressure on GPs

From Dr M. J. Healy

Sir, All general practitioners accept that every child should be immunised, and every woman screened for cervical cancer, but few of us will relish the prospect of a financial penalty if locally-agreed targets for these procedures, set out in the Government's White Paper, *Promoting Better Health* (report, November 26), are not reached. Would it not be fair to suggest that the payment of a family allowance is dependent on the claiming mother producing a certificate of immunisation, or an exemption certificate, if the doctor thinks such an immunisation is contra-indicated?

Similarly, if a woman does not attend for a cervical smear, her husband's tax code, or her own if she was not married, could be altered disadvantageously, until she has attended for a smear.

General practitioners and their staff would be spared considerable administrative time and costs and the onus would be properly on the patients to take some responsibility for their health and to avail themselves of the services that the doctors are only too willing to provide for them.

Yours sincerely, MAURICE HEALY, 5 Eversley Crescent, N21, January 3.

Early leanings

From Mr B. H. Owen

Sir, It used to be the general custom, adhered to still by a dwindling number of publishers, to place the title of a book running up the spine from bottom to top (when placed it horizontally was not possible or desired). The modern habit has it running from top to bottom.

In discussing the relative merits of these two methods with my English classes over several years, I have found by experiment that the large majority of my pupils more easily incline their heads to the left than to the right, and that therefore the older method of placing titles was the more convenient.

There is also the factor that with the head held to the left, one can walk along a row of books arranged alphabetically, from left to right, and see where one is going and so avoid nasty accidents in crowded libraries.

Publishers, please note! I remain, Sir, your obedient servant, B. H. OWEN, 1 Killister Avenue, Telford Park, SW2, December 26.

Centre piece

From Mr Anthony Windrum

Sir, What are we to make of the tiresome little paragraphs inserted in the middle of news items? Are we meant to read them (a) before the main item, (b) after, (c) in the middle, or (d) not at all?

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY WINDRUM, Limberlost, 27 Denne Road, Horsham, West Sussex, December 29.

stand that we are the most cost-effective such hospital in the United Kingdom.

Like every other hospital we have, over the past year, been subject to bed closures and other restrictions, but now we hear we are to be afflicted with even further major cuts. The Salford Health Authority being forced to close up to 140 beds by April next. Needless to say, the acute sector mainly concentrated in this hospital and the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital will bear the brunt of these cuts.

Additionally, we understand there are to be restrictions on the treatment of patients referred from outside our district and medical staff redundancies have been mentioned as a possibility. If these cuts go ahead we will not be able properly to teach our students, to treat the patients referred to us, or to conduct clinical research. Furthermore, patients with complex problems referred from other districts and for whom there are no other facilities in the North-west will have to travel to other parts of the United Kingdom to receive treatment.

In short, we are about to see the achievements of the past decade effectively dismantled even though they were undertaken at the request of the Department of Health, the University Grants Committee, and the North West Regional Health Authority.

The logic defies us. Could somebody please explain?

MILES IRVING (Professor of Surgery), CHARLES GALASKO (Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery), L. A. TURNBERG (Professor of Medicine), MALCOLM JAYSON (Professor of Rheumatology), University of Manchester, Department of Surgery, Clinical Sciences Building, Hope Hospital, Eccles Old Road, Salford, Greater Manchester, December 23.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 6 1912

The benefits or otherwise of a classical education have been debated in the letters columns of *The Times* for generations. The debate still goes on.

CLASSICS AND THE AVERAGE BOY

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,— May I adduce my own experience in support of Professor Turner's suggestion that boys, and, I would add, girls also, should have some choice of the subjects they are to be taught? I spent seven years of my life in the vain endeavour to acquire the rudiments of Latin, and I have never been able to construe a simple sentence in that language. I left school with the reputation of a dunce, and the disheartening conviction that I was imbecile. At college I turned to science, and succeeded in taking every prize and scholarship open to competition therein, and eventually took the University gold medal of the University of London. In that University I have served as examiner, and on two Boards of Studies. I have also been president of more than one learned society, and, greatest distinction of all, my letters are occasionally admitted into *The Times* as those of an authority on my subject. It seems, therefore, that, even for academic success, ability to acquire the Latin language is not a safe test of capacity. But those wasted seven years? Not altogether wasted, perhaps. I was constantly amazed by my stupidity over Latin, and the sole accomplishment that I acquired at school was that of taking a licking without howling. "So parents all who children have, and eke ye who have none," do not be depressed if your children show no ability to learn Latin. There may be hope for them, even though each of them is like myself.

A DUNCE.

THE FUTURE OF GREEK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,— It is odd that the Committee of the Hellenic Society, whose report appears in yesterday's *Educational Supplement*, did not take the trouble to find out the present position of Greek at Cambridge. Any one interested in the subject ought to be informed that (1) Greek is not required at Cambridge of candidates for diplomas, of whom a considerable number are in residence, especially in agriculture; (2) Greek is not compulsory after the previous examination for candidates for the Ordinary B.A. degree (we do not speak of a "pass" degree at Cambridge, because Poll men as well as Honours men are classed); the great majority of these now take neither the General nor one of the two specialisms involving Greek. Indeed, it is safe to say that nine-tenths of Cambridge BA's nowadays have read no Greek (so far as the University is concerned) beyond the beggarly modicum required for the Previous. (3) Women students are admitted to all Honours examinations without a preliminary examination necessarily including Greek.

Yours &c, Mifflon, Jan. 3. H. RACKHAM.

THE ARTS

Murder in the cutting room

Devout followers of Ruth Rendell no doubt emitted wails of astonishment at the changes made to her novel *The Face of Treason* in BBC1's intelligent but psychologically limiting film version.

Perhaps, not surprisingly though, one of the first casualties in the story about Gray Lancelotti, a novelist obsessed with his ex-mistress, was his comically named novel, *"The Wine of Astonishment"*.

Some of the alterations in Michael Baker's screenplay were nominal. The whole thing was now called *An Affair in Mind*, Lancelotti got a new surname and the act name of his two-faced married lover Drusilla James was made her invention. Others were more crucial.

TELEVISION

In the 1974 book, Gray was a long-haired impoverished drop-out living in squalor in a borrowed cottage. The film had Stephen Dillon playing him as an Eighties style generation smoothie down to his last word processor and answering machine in a designer windmill conversion.

The only discernable difference in his appearance between the flashbacks of his affair with Dru (Amanda Donohoe) and his despairing isolation was a hint of stubble.

An undeniably pocket casualism thrown by Dru at Gray seemed to cope with the problem of updating so casual a sexual encounter to the present day.

Gray's materialism, however, deprived the film of much of Rendell's fine portrayal of the psychological obsession of an impoverished man and Dru was even more a cypher of an adulterous rich *femme fatale*.

The actors and director Colin Lake, though, successfully compensated for these limitations and Baker, with help from the word processor and answering machine, cleverly overcame some of the slinky contrivances of the plot and added some witty touches like making the dog belong to an ex-wife.

The end, however, was puzzling. We were shown the accident which in the book, so masterfully produced from out of a coma a witness to clear the framed Gray, but the witness was apparently left on the cutting room floor.

Instead, in this TV version, the word processor tantalizingly produced the evidence to clear his name out of view of the police.

Andrew Hislop

The reptile strikes back

Humorist P.J. O'Rourke is being hailed as America's funniest new writer. Chris Peachment met him

The confessions, adventures, essays and other outrages of P.J. O'Rourke arrive on these shores garlanded with the sort of praise guaranteed to turn any humorist glassy-eyed and to make him reach for a stiff Glenfiddich: "S.J. Perelman on acid," says Christopher Buckley; "The funniest American writer since Thurber," says Tom Sharpe. Try living up to that.

Buyers of *Republican Party Reptile* (O'Rourke's description of his own true self), his first collection of essays to be published in Britain, can rest assured however; he is very funny. He makes me laugh out loud when I'm reading him alone; he makes me laugh out loud when I'm reading him in company; he even makes the companion laugh when I read him aloud.

As with Evelyn Waugh, I can see why he makes me laugh, but I can't see why he makes me laugh so much. Analysis of any humour, however, is always a deadly business. If there is anything less funny than Freud's famous essay explaining jokes, it is probably Bergson's theories on why we laugh.

In the flesh he is a very proper sort of fellow. Clean, decent haircut, button-down clothes, holds his knife and fork properly, definitely the sort you could take home to mother. He knows the rules of conversation, he laughs politely in all the right places and is a Republican to boot. This is undoubtedly why he can get away with writing essays about *How to Drive Fast on Drugs* and *Not Spill Your Drink*, and other activities too

perverse to mention in a family newspaper. All my old friends with socialist liberal feelings find themselves laughing at his essays in spite of themselves.

He used to be a hippie just like everyone else, but managed his Road to Damascus experience sufficiently early for it not to have damaged his prose style. "I was in Baltimore," he explains, "running what we were pleased to call an 'underground' newspaper. Underground? The cops would bust us, but never for sedition, just marijuana. We were anti-war, anti-capitalist, the usual thing, but we were also funny, which didn't please the Radicals too much."

"One day this bunch of 30 guys came into the office with sticks and knives. They called themselves the Balto-Cong, sort of Baltimore's equivalent of the Vietcong, and they had come to, you know, liberate us. This involved taking each of us upstairs and screaming at us that we were all running dog lackeys of capitalist pigs and so on. They wanted to liberate the paper."

"We couldn't explain to them that all they had liberated was an office with a lot of rent arrears and a \$10,000 debt. After they had all gone, it felt to me and the staff photographer to guard the office each night, simply because we had a pistol each. He, it turned out, was an undercover cop who had been

planted on us. The trouble was that when we discovered this, we realized that we all liked him a lot better than the Balto-Cong. And he liked us too. So he quit the cops and we all cut our hair and got jobs."

After growing up, he moved to New York, and began writing as a freelance. "I even wrote pornography. It only paid \$25 per thousand words, and it played hell with your private life. 'Er, not tonight darling, I've had a hard day, and I'm also sick to my stomach.'" He joined the *National Lampoon* in 1973, and rose through the ranks to become its managing editor before leaving in 1981. He is now billed on the *Rolling Stone* masthead as their "international affairs desk chief", which he invented because it sounded cute. In fact he is their "investigative humorist".

The main point about his writing though is that it tells the truth. His account of a trip to Russia is the most accurate description I have ever read of the forgotten of God. Few foreign correspondents seem brave enough to tell you that the Russians are a manic depressive race, born three stiff vodkas under par, who live in a country of staggering imaginative poverty, but who are yet more interesting than the witless lefties from the West who go there and ask questions about their Gross National Product and praise hydroelectric dam schemes.

His is the sort of truth which newspaper men tell each other in the hotel bar at ten of an evening, but not to their readers. "It was that Russian trip which convinced me I should concentrate on foreign stories. I thought 'Wow, here is a whole new world' and you don't need to be funny about it. It's funny as hell in itself. You just run the tape and transcribe it all."

He tells the truth about the Philippines too, in an essay entitled *Goons, Guns and Gold*. "Ferdinand Marcos is a vicious lying dirtball who ought to have been dragged through the streets of Manila with his ears nailed to a truck bumper." This is a sentiment often thought but never so well expressed.

O'Rourke belongs to that long line of American humorists who have at least one thing in common: good magazines to nurture them and give them time, money and space to pursue their neuroses at length. *Playboy*, *Esquire*, *Vanity Fair*, *Rolling Stone*, *Car and Driver* are just some of his long list of outlets. Times, however, are changing.

"*Esquire* used to be a wonderful magazine. Now it runs articles like 'What men feel about their sisters'. It even has a sub-title on the cover: 'For men at their best.' Well we don't want any of that do we? What we want is men at their worst. 'Damn right,' says O'Rourke. 'Give me guns and fast cars and girls in leather. I want men at their most beastly.' He plans to go to Beirut soon. That should do the trick."

Republican Party Reptile is published by Picador at £3.50



Investigative humorist O'Rourke: "Give me guns and fast cars and girls in leather"

A leap to stardom

At 19, French ballerina Sylvie Guillem was nominated as Etoile. Today she dances *Giselle* with the Royal Ballet and becomes the youngest guest star. John Percival reports



Sylvie Guillem: love of gymnastics led her to the Paris Opera

When Sylvie Guillem dances *Giselle* with the Royal Ballet today and tomorrow she will be, at 22, the youngest guest star the company has ever engaged, breaking the record set by Rudolf Nureyev almost 26 years ago. Nureyev, her boss at the Paris Opera, will be partnering her and is largely responsible for her invitation.

Guillem's rise to international acclaim has been unusually fast even by the standards of the Ballet d'Opéra, where she joined the Corps de Ballet at age 16 in 1981. At the end of her first season the company came to London and she was in *La Sylphide*, "but hardly more than a walk-on", she says, so this is not quite her first time on the Covent Garden stage.

Her original ambition was to be a gymnast. "I began gymnastics as soon as I could walk. At 11 years old I had a teacher who sent me to a ballet course at the Opera to improve my gymnastics. There it was suggested that I should be a dancer. I had to choose: gymnastics or dance. I chose to dance. Why? Because of the stage, because of the audience,

the whole appeal of the theatre."

Her theatricality, coupled with an amazingly pliant body and a technique that does not know the meaning of the word difficulty, very quickly made her noticed. At 18, she danced her first classical solo, in Nureyev's *Raymonda* and had her first creative role, in William Forsythe's *Force Majeure*. She also found time to win the gold medal in the junior category of the Varna International Dance competition (the Elroy Ballet's young star Farukh Rakhmatov got a silver).

It was in 1984 that Guillem's career really took off. Among a series of contracted parts, I remember being especially struck by her in a programme at the Theatre des Champs-Élysées which

gave her two widely different leading roles; her first encounter with Balanchine's classicism in the Mozart *Divertimento No.15* and a fiercely modern part in *Ends of the Earth* by John Neumeier.

Promotion with the hierarchy of the Paris Ballet is by open competition. Every contestant dances two solos. A jury awards them votes within their class, marks are added for achievement during the year, and the outcome determines who gets the vacancies. Guillem confesses that she was terrified each time. But that did not prevent her from going up one step every year, reaching the rank of principal dancer in the most fiercely contested bout for years, on Christmas Eve 1984.

Five days later she danced her first *Swan Lake* and was

taken completely by surprise when Nureyev came on stage during the curtain calls for the public announcement that she had been nominated as Etoile, joining the small group of officially recognized stars who hold a privileged position for the rest of their careers. She was still only 19.

From that point the guest engagements began; invitations to Berlin, Florence, Milan, and to star in Roland Petit's *Notre Dame de Paris* with his own company. There was also an enormous range of roles at the Opera. All the guest choreographers wanted her in their ballets: Karole Arming, Lucinda Childs, Nils Christ, Maurice Bejart, John Neumeier, Jerome Robbins mounted his *In Memory Of...* specially for her.

Entirely contemporary in

appearance and manner off stage, Guillem is not the work one would most obviously associate her with and, in fact, she has not yet danced it in Paris.

"The first time I was offered the role, I turned it down. Partly because I was preparing my first Juliet at the same time and wanted to concentrate on that; but partly too because if you want to be able to dance that role well at the end of your career, you have to be very careful how you approach it."

So how has she found her present approach to it? "From Rudolf I have learned it on tour always with him. I learned the role first from Yvette Chauvire (in her time the unrivalled French interpreter of the part) and I read all I could about it and studied pictures. But when you dance with Rudolf, he is such a complete person on stage that you find yourself wanting only to respond to him. It's like a conversation; you answer what he does."

It sounds a good start for a role she obviously plans to be dancing and developing in two decades from now.

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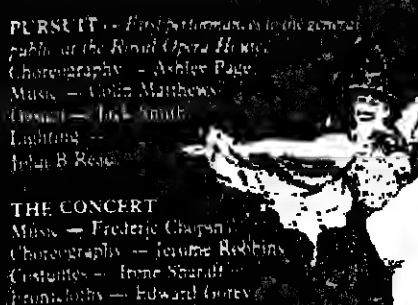


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THEATRE

Love off the Shelf

Nuffield, Southampton

In a glorious salute to popular fiction, literary novels will readily identify with its starting point in which a blocked biographer decides to try his hand at a true romance. Simultaneously, his research assistant embarks on one of her own, so there are two sets of dewy heroines and insufferably arrogant lovers competing for possession of Sarah Jane McClelland's heart-shaped stage.

The book and exceedingly deft lyrics are by Roger Hall and A.K. Grant, from whose hands the set up releases a gusher of comic ideas. First, the two romancers have to learn the rules, and you see them inventing hopeless partnerships before settling on a torrid Caribbean adventure

and an agency secretary breaking down the reserve of a moody genius.

Then the characters (who know the rules better than their authors) are not to be pushed around. The eye-fluttering Lucinda (a peach of a performance from Sarah Maur-Thorp) tells her creator exactly where to get off when he tries to strip her down to the buff in the opening scene.

Meanwhile, as these romances develop, the authors are unwittingly engaged in a romance of their own, with many a wounding setback along the way. "My darling," exclaims John (Barry James) to the rapture of his fellow scribe (Marilyn Curtis); and then unveils the word-processor that has stolen his heart.

Philip Norman's score is beautifully integrated with this line in affectionate satire, sometimes projecting the romance of old musical comedy, quick with comic burlesque and local colour, and rising to the task of storytelling.

Irving Wardle

Using a hammer to crack a nut

DANCE

Thanks to Tchaikovsky, *The Nutcracker* is popular out of all proportion to its dramatic or choreographic merits. For many companies, London Festival Ballet included, its annual revival is an economic necessity, guaranteed to bring full houses that help sustain the rest of the year.

In the circumstances, the chief response must be one of awed admiration at the way the dancers go on looking cheerful and enthusiastic, in spite of having to repeat roles of often limited interest for weeks on end and often twice a day.

I must say that I find Peter Schaufuss's production no more enjoyable this year than

when new last season. Even if I avoid direct comparison with Nureyev's much more logical and musical version, which I saw last week in both Paris and Milan, it has to be said that Schaufuss's staging stands in a class of its own for distortion of the music and sheer muddle-headed mangling of the plot.

For musical pleasure, the production at La Scala (conducted by Michel Sasso) was streets ahead; but Festival Ballet's orchestra played bravely, if not often with much finesse, under Andrew Moguelis on Monday night. Unfortunately, there was not a lot of finesse about most of the dancing either.

Milan had Evelyn Desutter ideally cast and in superb form as guest ballerina, partnered by Nureyev. Apart from them, I find it difficult to believe that, dancer for dancer, the company at La Scala is stronger than the Festival Ballet. Yet they looked it, and only partly because of the benefit of better constructed, more stylish and inventive choreography.

Their chief assets are togetherness and polish; Festival seems temporarily to have abandoned those qualities for slap-bang vigour, even from Patrick Armand in the big *pas de deux*. He partnered Christine Camillo, not ideally fine enough in feature or physique, but strong and clear in movement. Incidentally, isn't it odd to lower the lights for this dance, which should be the ballet's glittering climax?

Many of the male dancers would look better for some tonorial attention, and the otherwise detectable Trinidad Seviliano in the juvenile lead, should be ashamed of her dirty, sloppy shoes.

John Percival



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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Ladies' day in the killing fields

An unsuitable sport for a woman? Caroline Phillips discovers why some hunt and shoot for pleasure

Sue Smith first went shooting 20 years ago, when she was seven. Her father, a gunsmith, took her on a duck shoot. At 10, she was given her first gun, a 28-bore, the next size up from a 410". She went pigeon shooting.

Then she started deer-stalking. "I got my first roebuck at 12," she says. "I've got a picture of it." In the following years she shot fallow deer, then red stags. Now she shoots pheasant and rabbits, too.

Smith, who works for a gunsmith as a professional gun finisher, is a crack shot. She is also anti those who are anti-blood sports, although she finds their views acceptable if they are vegetarians.

"Most of them are just rent-a-gang, student recruits paid £15 a day to disrupt things."

To those genuinely concerned about creatures suffering, she says: "An animal in an abattoir suffers far more because it knows it is going to be killed. When you stalk a deer, for instance, it doesn't even know you are there. Occasionally, she concedes, a bird gets wounded. "But it is picked up instantly."

She never feels upset about killing. "What? With the things I have to do as part of my work? Gutting rabbits, skinning them, galloching [gutting] deer and butchering them? Her father has started up an oven-ready enterprise.

She derives immense pleasure from her sports. "I love being in the open air and



'It's conservation — and the fox has an equal chance'

Rosemary Cleverdon

getting exercise." Duck shooting is her favourite.

"It's the atmosphere out there on the marshes, when there are just three of you shooting in the dark. It's freezing, and then you come back to a lovely fire. As far as pheasant shooting is concerned, she says: "It's a bit naughty, but I suppose it is the thrill of seeing them drop from the sky."

And rabbits? "You sit in clumps of grass or little hollows to get out of the wind and it's fun because of the element of surprise."

Rosemary Cleverdon, the 49-year-old Joint Master of the West Street Hunt, also enjoys the element of surprise. "We only get about one in

every 25 foxes, they're terribly crafty."

A former secretary in South Africa, she has been hunting for 15 years. "It's exciting to see a pack work their way through a wood on the line of the fox. When they find a fox, the adrenalin gets going and the chase is rather fun. She says it gives her something to look forward to when everyone else is dreading winter.

The hunt takes out approximately 15% couples of hounds — "you talk about hounds in 'couples' and always take out an odd number" — twice weekly from November to mid-March. In season, she probably dedicates about 25 hours a week to hunting.

With the other two Masters, she has to "draw covers" (put the hounds into woods to try to find the fox) and decide where the hunt should go. She also has to obtain permission from the farmers, build a jump occasionally, organize fundraising events, visit the kennels, exercise her horses Mish and Dudley, and go to "masses of meetings."

As Joint Master of the hunt, she maintains charge of the "field" when they "move off" (tells them where to go), and talks their way out of sticky situations if, for example, the hounds chase sheep or go into a garden.

She is not paid for her work; she pays a subscription to the hunt and contributes towards drinks at the meet. She estimates that a season's hunting



'Pheasant shooting? It's a bit naughty, but I suppose it is the thrill of seeing them drop from the sky'

Sue Smith

in her area costs at least £1,000.

"A good coat costs about £800 and you pay around £250 for handmade leather boots," she adds. The hunt expects to kill "10

brace of foxes" in a season. It is, she feels, the fairest and cleanest way to keep the animals down.

"It's a way of conservation — it's a service for the farmers — and the fox has an equal

chance. Unlike shooting, you cannot just wound the animal. "Fortunately," she says, "we haven't had too much trouble from the antis."

Betty McKeever, an 86-year-old great grandmother

and Master of the Blean beagles, says she had a "helluva" time with them last season.

One of them — "some damned chap called Hey Ho or something" — apparently gave them an awful "pasting". In the subsequent chase, a policeman broke his ankle and had to be "carried off the field of battle." One day she was arrested.

As a matter of policy, she says she won't allow "fisticuffs". One of her fellow beaglers, she explains, disguises himself as a tree and watches out for people who squirt the hounds with acid.

Despite a recent hip replacement and failing eyesight, this season she has followed the hounds, walking for more than one and a half miles and has had a "ripping" time.

McKeever's mastership dates from 1909, when her father gave her some beagles. She has been in the parish almost all her life — she now lives in a part-13th century farmhouse with a pet bat.

As Master, she is responsible for the hounds' upkeep. "I feed 'em on bibles [bullocks' stomachs]." They hunt from September — "as soon as we can get on the corn land" — until March.

McKeever has a huntsman and two or three amateur whips on a Saturday. On Thursdays, a doctor, who is "supposed to be the best nuclear physicist in the world or something," hunts the pack.

It is, says McKeever, an elderly or really young person's sport. Three gentlemen in their seventies always go out with her.

She explains her enjoyment: "For a kick-off, you are in different country every time: lovely woods, huge arable lands or marsh country." Beagling is very social, too, she says. On Boxing Day they meet at the Brewery, "all free drinks".

If beagling is made illegal, she says firmly that she will move with her pack to Ireland. She doesn't like killing anything unnecessarily but, she says, the hares damage fruit trees and are otherwise hunted by the fox, shot or snared.

"I never feel guilty about killing them. I don't think they think the way Beatrix Potter made out."

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BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Tempted by tempi

Those who wish to learn more about the world of opera from A to Bizet should sign up promptly for a series of lectures by such luminaries as John Julius Norwich, conductor Antony Hopkins and tenor Nigel Douglas. To be staged at the Minema Cinema in Knightsbridge, London SW1, starting on Thursday February 4, the lectures will give listeners a grounding in the musical and historical background to opera. Details of the Opera Course (£375 for eight lectures, or £55 each) are available from Mrs Sally Windham, 23 Cadogan Square, London SW1 (01-235 3264).

Home help

Unlike cookery or gardening books, first aid manuals are not volumes which entice readers to leaf through them casually. "But we wish they would," says Kathy Stretton of the St John Ambulance Association, or £55 each) are available from Mrs Sally Windham, 23 Cadogan Square, London SW1 (01-235 3264).

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Victoria, Albert & Elizabeth the first

How will the first woman director of the V & A cope with a cut-throat business?

Photographs of Elizabeth Esteve-Coll's Old English sheepdog personalize the director's office at the V & A; apart from these, it is exactly as Sir Roy Strong left it — dominated by the bust of an obscure Polish duke who, a secretary confided, "would be a slight embarrassment to the sculpture department as to where to put him if we chucked him out".

The new director, 49 years old and fresh to the post with its £40,000 salary after two years as the chief librarian of the V & A National Art Library, may be sitting in a seat still warm from the 14-year occupancy of the flamboyant Sir Roy — but she does not consider herself to be in his shadow.

When the museum's chief administrator, Jim Close, was promoted to a position of enhanced responsibility, some

people suggested that this was a move towards a dual directorship and a lessening of the director's control. They implied that such a step might have been deemed necessary because the new director was a woman with a low profile.

"I would say that was an interpretation put on events by someone who was unaware of the facts," Esteve-Coll says smoothly. "If you like, it's a sort of inevitable comment which one can understand being made — it's just surprising that it is made in this generation, when there has been such an awareness of equality in employment and opportunity for women."

"I have, for 15 years, been head of a department in one way or another — often the only female — and it has never occurred to me, ever, that I needed anybody to hold my hand. The answer is that if



Elizabeth Esteve-Coll: learning marketing techniques

you're confident and capable of doing the job, you get on and do the job.

"Actually," she concludes, pulling the ace out of her comfortable jacket sleeve, "the promotion of Mr Close took place when Sir Roy was the director."

The broadening of his brief

can be seen as a symptom of the natural growth of the museum — which from April 1 becomes responsible for the administration of its own property for the first time. Figures of £26 million are bandied about for repairs and improvements.

"It's a Forth Bridge oper-

ation," the new director sighs; but she welcomes the responsibility for the legendary leaking roof, if it brings with it a direct say in shaping the museum's future.

A new marketing manager, Charles Mills, joins the management team, together with an events and activities organizer, Sarah Pappworth. Esteve-Coll believes that in an increasingly commercial world, museums, while retaining education as a priority, must learn the aggressive marketing techniques of the leisure industry, "but without the commercial budget".

A new restaurant and a shop run under the aegis of V & A Enterprise, an independent commercial company, are already profitable and the voluntary charges ("system of flexible donations") which attracted such a distressing amount of what the museum sees as bad publicity last year brought in £2 million. But attendance is still down after dropping a dramatic 40 per cent in the first year of charges.

Esteve-Coll believes new initiatives are dependent upon developing a partnership with the private sector. "It may mean cash sponsorship — or it may mean services which are given as payment in kind. We are exploring new avenues, but I cannot tell you what they are, because in the current economic climate museums and galleries are in competition with each other. We're in a cut-throat business."

She arrives at the museum before eight in the morning and often does not leave until 9pm, as well as coming in at weekends. Her refreshing style of management involves "walking the patch" to get to know museum-goers and wardens. She appreciates the cloak of anonymity, and spent last Sunday gathering information from unlikely quarters. She goes home with copious carrier bags of work, a self-confessed "bag lady".

A widow (she lives with her dog in Richmond), she relaxes by reading poetry and going to the theatre. Poetry is some-

thing of a passion, as are Romanesque and contemporary art. A Yorkshire lass, she is delighted to be negotiating to transport some of the V & A's vast, undisputed Indian collections for exhibition in Bradford.

In addition to her other undoubted attributes, Esteve-Coll should be an encouragement to all women who have worried about what a career break will do to their prospects. For 10 years she lived a nomadic life on the high seas with her husband, a Spanish sailor and a refugee from the Civil War, who died eight years ago. She calls it "a very privileged existence," which taught her to speak excellent Spanish, good French and "appalling", but enjoyable, Italian.

"I didn't start my career until I was in my thirties," says the former university librarian. "I think I've been very lucky."

Victoria McKee

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Up and onward

If you have outgrown your living space, there is an alternative to the upheaval of moving house: expanding your home upwards. The Loft Shop has just opened at Progress Way, Croydon, Surrey CR9 4XD. With an advisory service on technicalities like planning, building regulations, daylight requirements, it also carries all materials required for the job, and will dispatch fact packs on conversions if you call 01-681 4060.

Winter yams

If you have decided to unplug the video and fill the yarning winter evenings more productively, you will welcome the news that Riebs by Mail has added a needlepoint and tapestry section to its world-wide service to armchair-shoppers, for canvas and yarn kits by Ehrman, Kaffe Fassett, Gloria-filia and Royale Paris, among others. Telephone 01-242 7721 for details and a round-the-clock ordering service.

Josephine Fairley

TOMORROW

Health Page Putting Britain on its feet — getting to grips with a pain in the back

Supper at the Cordon Bleu

The Spring Programme of Tuesday Evening Demonstrations with Supper at the Cordon Bleu is now underway. A light fork supper is served from 6.00 p.m. followed by a demonstration of exciting seasonal recipes for entertaining family, friends and business associates. Price £3.50 (inc. supper and VAT).

The Cordon Bleu also offers a wide selection of practical classes for the cook/homes and professionals including 1-day and evening classes, 1-week and 1, 3, 6 and 9 month training courses. For further details of all demonstrations and practical classes contact: The Cordon Bleu, 119 Piccadilly, London W1. Telephone 01-935 3362.

Philosophy and a facial

FIRST PERSON

Maggie Drummond

What, I wonder, did business bigwigs make of the New Year's Eve announcement that Mrs Anita Roddick, managing director of Body Shop International, was to receive an OBE? It was only just over a month ago that some of these had assembled to see her receive the Company of the Year award and had witnessed her extraordinary outburst against big business.

They feel now, I imagine, like the guests at those Hollywood Oscar ceremonies when it was fashionable for award-winning actors and actresses to deliver some liberal chic thoughts on American foreign policy in an inappropriate setting guaranteed to produce plenty of column inches and positive personal publicity.

According to Roddick, big business is on its last legs, chock-a-block with pessimistic accountants and chaps who fail to make her blood surge — "fired executives in a tired system", from the sound of it, well beyond the redemption even of Body Shop's exotic potions.

Business, it seems, has no social conscience, no soul — well, you name it and Roddick will tell you it hasn't got it. Perhaps just as well.

Rather like a friend who used to strike schools for his

daughter off his list once the headmistress started gabbling about the importance of happiness and music. I go slightly deaf when entrepreneurs start talking about non-monetary values, not usually their greatest area of expertise.

Roddick is to be admired for her talent and energy in building up a business, from one shop in the back streets of Brighton to the multimillion pound empire she controls today, in a fashion described by one fan as Sixties idealism combined with Eighties entrepreneurialism. But, like many who have made their pile, this is not enough for her.

She now wants us to embrace not just her strawberry scrub soap-substitute, guaranteed to revive any tired businessman, but her philosophical notions as well, and treat her strictures on management technique like comic utterances. Far from being "alternative" she is following a familiar pattern.

I am all for big business having a social conscience, which, practically speaking, means not doing things like ruining beauty spots and polluting rivers and, on the positive side, handing over large sums of money to charities in return for a modest mention in a gala programme and the chance for the chairman's wife to meet the Princess of Wales.

But when I walk into Body Shop, which is, for all its founder's social conscience, completely dedicated to the enhancement of self, is it necessary that I know how its new wood foot massagers are helping Third World employment, or that by buying Jojoba oil I am helping to save the whales?

If too many people pay attention to Roddick, going shopping will be emotionally exhausting, and I might prefer to send the money to Ethiopia, anyway.

Roddickization — an intimate marriage of commercialism and do-gooding — is not confined to Body Shop. Recently a new Visa credit card was launched with pictures of battered children in the adverts. The idea is that some of the profits go to the NSPCC.

Some people probably think it is a wonderful gesture. I think it is a commercial gimmick. If they want to give money, why don't they do just that? And quietly?

Roddick is kidding herself if she thinks people buy her products or her shares for any other reason than that they will make us prettier or richer. And what she does with her profits is, and should be, her own business — not ours.

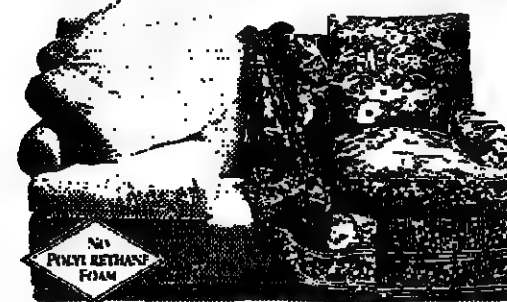
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Trendy smoking concert

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

A new taste of Hannay

TELEVISION CHOICE

It is South West Africa in 1912 and Richard Hannay, played by Robert Powell, is minding his business when a would-be assassin leaps out and shoots him in the back. As the blood seeps through his shirt, a black stone is pressed in his hand. Since a series can hardly lose its hero in the first five minutes, it is no surprise when our man rises from the dead and, en route for England, reckons it is about time he tested a bit of civilization. We are in John Baskin country, though Hannay (ITV, 9.00pm) is a modern pastiche which makes use of the characters and ambience and invents the stories. Given the date, two years before the First World War, the villain can hardly be other than a German and, sure enough, Hannay is soon on the trail of one Count von Schwabing, who is out to capture the British fleet in the Scapa Flow. Meanwhile Hannay is trying to inculcate himself into London society in his amorous pursuit of the lovely Lady Anne, whose 21st birthday is imminent. This sub-plot is often more diverting than the main adventure, which develops into a familiar Russian double chase with Hannay pursued equally by police and heavies. Since von Schwabing is a standard caricature German who could have stayed in 'Allo 'Allo it is hard to take him or his nefarious activities seriously, while Hannay has such a miraculous facility for getting out of desperate situations which for other mortals mean certain death, that the plot is rather lacking in tension. But Powell is a peerless Hannay (as he has already demonstrated in the film *The Thirty-Nine Steps*) and his attempts to get himself accepted by the British aristocracy are amusingly



Richard Hannay (Robert Powell) takes some adventuresome new steps in the first episode of Hannay (ITV, 9.00pm)

charmed. Preparing for Lady Anne's ball he seems to be doing everything right - visiting the best tailor and taking dancing lessons - but as he struggles with his bow tie, it is obvious he has some way to go. So, perhaps, has this series. From the first episode it is not clear whether Campaign (BBC2, 9.25pm) is intended as satire, soap opera or feminist tract. Certainly there are elements of all three. The setting is a West End advertising agency, where bright young people sip Perrier water and drive Porsches and BMWs. In between they rush about, talk nineteen to the dozen and try to look dynamic. The agency's accounts include beer, breakfast cereal and, when the Prime Minister calls a snap election, the government itself. The best scene, fortuitously topical, is the shooting of a television commercial for the National Health Service in which a nurse played by an actress mouths platitudes from an

Peter Waymark

In the chill of the night

RADIO CHOICE

The Man in Black is back, with a difference. The late Valentine Dyall, once radio's most sinister story-teller, has been replaced by Edward de Souza. He makes a very creditable job of introducing Fear on Four (Radio 4, 6.30pm), a new 12-part series of "horror and suspense plays". Tonight's tale is *The Snowman Killing* by J.C.W. Brook, in which the only really convincing element is the acting of Imelda Staunton as the understandably anxious mother of twins Colin and Alex, and wife of Henry - played by Brian Hewlett. As is usual with exercises of this kind, wild implausibility and wilful unpleasantness prevent any real atmosphere of horror developing. Radio is potentially the most creepy medium of all, but if this one leaves your blood running cold, there is probably something wrong with your central heating.



Imelda Staunton in the cast of Fear on Four (R4, 6.30pm)

Widely tipped as the hottest new comedy show on radio, *When Lee Is It Anyway?* (Radio 4, 7.45pm) makes its debut this week. Real live young people - the audience of Radio 4's dreams - have been observed queuing round the block to get into the recordings, and once inside they have clearly had a whale of a time. The show is a loosely organized team game, in which the panellists ad lib their way through tasks set by

Nigel Andrew

- BBC1**
- 6.00 *Cartoon AM*
 - 6.35 *Edgar Kennedy in Act Your Age (b/w)*, 6.55 *Weather*
 - 7.00 *Breakfast Time* with John Stapleton, Sally Magnusson and Jeremy Paxman. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.20, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25
 - 8.35 *Make 'Em Laugh (r)*, 8.55 *Regional news and weather*
 - 9.00 *News and weather* followed by *Open Air*. Patsy Cuthbert receives viewers' comments on yesterday's television output.
 - 9.20 *Kilroy*. Robert Kilroy-Gibbs chairs a studio discussion on the "Swinging Sixties".
 - 10.00 *News and weather* followed by *The Flintstones (r)*, 10.25 *Children's BBC*. Andy Crane with programme details and birthday greetings followed by *Play School*, presented by Chris Ashcroft and Ian Lauchlan (r), and *The Wombles (r)*.
 - 10.55 *Five to Eleven*, a reading by Joanna Lumley 11.00 *News and weather* followed by *Open Air* with Bob Wellings, Patsy Cuthbert and, possibly, the UK's Greatest Grand.
 - 12.00 *News and weather* followed by *Daytime Live*. Magazine series presented by Patricia Armstrong, Alec Thompson and Judi Spleers 12.55 *Regional news and weather*.
 - 1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. Weather, 1.30 *Neighbours*. A new feud brews between the Ramsays and the Robinsons; and Des and Debra have their first fight.
 - 1.50 *The Thirties*. Episode three of the five-part adaptation of Colleen McCullough's bestselling novel and Meggie discovers that Ralph is to be made a bishop in Rome. She makes the momentous decision to start a new life in Queensland (r). (Contax)
 - 3.30 *Paddles Up*. Heat two of the international white-water canoeing competition on the River Dee, Llangollen, North Wales.
 - 3.40 *Suburban*, the incredible Drawing Dog (r), 4.00 *Animal Park (r)*, 4.10 *Laurie and Hardy*, 4.15 *Jackass*, Rik Mayall with part three of *Roadkill*, 4.20 *George's Menagerie*, 4.25 *Madeline (r)*, 4.30 *Yogi Bear (r)*, 4.35 *Wizbit*. The first of a new series, starring Paul Daniels.
 - 5.00 *Newsround*, 5.10 *Stories and Songs*. A drama, written by Adam Delaney, set in inner-city London (r), 5.35 *Neighbours (r)*.
 - 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell. Weather, 6.30 *London Plus*.
 - 7.00 *Wogan*. Tonight's guest list includes *Neighbours* actors Anne Charleston, Richard Ekins and yachtsman Harold Gidman. Plus, a song from *Charley Pride*.
 - 7.35 *The Clothes Show* introduces the launch of the Clothes Show Model 86 competition and a look at the latest in mail order fashion (r).
 - 8.00 *Dallas*. Bobby has to be restrained by J.R. and Ray when he goes on a barroom rampage; and Nicholas Pearce arranges a meeting between Sue Ellen and an investor who is not exactly a stranger to her. (Contax)
 - 8.30 *Points of View* with Anne Robinson.
 - 8.40 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk and Debbie Thuermer. Regional news and weather.
 - 8.50 *E.R. - The Magic of Memory*. This film of a new series features Paul Daniels demonstrating fascinating memory-improving techniques. (Contax)
 - 10.20 *Film: The Night Shift (1987)* starring Sam Shepard. The second of the two-part drama about the Mercury space race programme of the early 1960s. Directed by Philip Kaufman.
 - 11.45 *Weather*.

- ITV LONDON**
- 6.00 *TV-am* includes cartoons and, at 7.00 and 8.00 *Good Morning Britain* introduced by Mike Morris.
 - 8.30 *Ordy Britain* presented by Anne Diamond in Australia.
 - 8.35 *Thames news headlines*.
 - 8.50 *Give Us a Clue*. Celebrity mine game presented by Michael Parkinson. This is the first of a new series. Liz Goddard are joined by Lysette Anthony, Christopher Bigsby, Fraser Hines, Roger Kiter, Judy Lee and Jessica Martin 10.00 *Santa Barbara* (12.55 *News headlines*).
 - 10.30 *Which Way?* Tony Wilson presents a programme that examines the options for 16-year-olds who might be unsure of the next course of action to take - to stay at school, go to college, try for a training course or maybe even a job. For individual advice ring 0345 60 0345.
 - 11.10 *Allo! Allo!* 11.25 *Thames news headlines* 11.30 *Getting On*. This week's edition of the magazine programme for the older viewer includes help in staying healthy 12.00 *Wish You Were Here*. 1. Turlene, the Lizard and Wyoming (r).
 - 12.30 *News* 12.50 *Thames news headlines*.
 - 1.00 *Comic Lancelot*. Word association game presented by Jeremy Beckett 1.30 *A Comedy Practice*.
 - 2.30 *Which Way?* Tony Wilson, continuing from this morning's programme, with advice for 16-year-olds on the options open to them.
 - 3.00 *Games*. Episode one of a new drama series set in London's fashion world 3.30 *Thames news headlines* 3.50 *Santa Barbara*.
 - 4.00 *Rod, Jane & Freddy*. A new children's series 4.10 *Five Minute Wonder* 4.30 *The Wind in the Willows*. Animated adventures of Toad and his friends 4.45 *Your Mother Wouldn't Like It*.
 - 5.10 *Blockbusters*. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers, presented by Bob Morris.
 - 5.45 *News* 6.00 *Thames news*.
 - 6.25 *Help*. Community action news.
 - 6.30 *Emmerdale Farm*. Kathy and Jackie plan their wedding and at NY Estates Joe Sugden has the unpleasant task of making the going worse for the visitors.
 - 7.00 *This Is Your Life*. The first of three programmes recorded before Eamonn Andrews's death.
 - 7.30 *Coronation Street*. If gossip is correct then Jenny and Patric's engagement is going to be short-lived; and there is unrest at the factory. (Oracle)
 - 8.00 *Des O'Connor Tonight*. The comedian's special guest is impressionist Karen Kay.
 - 9.00 *Hannay*. (Oracle) (see Choice)
 - 10.00 *News at Ten* 10.30 *Thames news headlines*.
 - 10.35 *Snooker*. The last two quarter-final matches in the Mercantile Credit Classic introduced by David Davies from Northwick Castle, Blackpool.
 - 12.15 *Film: Casablanca* (1971) starring Lee Van Cleef, Camille D'Amico and Stuart Whitman. An Indian serving with US Army Intelligence is given the job of tracking down the killers of an Indian Commissioner. Directed by Alexander Singer. America's Top 10 presented by Bob Morris.
 - 2.30 *News headlines* followed by *WWF in Championship*. Comedy series.
 - 3.00 *Film: The Curse of the Mummy's Tomb (1984)* starring Terence Morgan. A resurrected mummy wreaks revenge in top-storied London house which he defiled his tomb. Directed by Michael Carreras.
 - 4.35 *Fifty Years On*. Vintage.
 - 5.00 *ITN World News* 5.30 *CNN Headline News*. Ends at 6.00.

- BBC2**
- 9.00 *Cartoon* 12.30 *Open University* 1.30 *News and Weather*
 - 1.35 *Charlie Chaplin in Work (1915, b/w)*.
 - 2.00 *News and weather* followed by *Antiques Roadshow* in Worcester (r).
 - 2.45 *Holiday Outings*. Bill Buckley skis in St Anton (r).
 - 3.00 *News and weather* followed by *Great Collectors*. Henry McIlhenny's collection of 19th century French paintings housed in his Philadelphia home (r).
 - 3.50 *News*, regional news and weather.
 - 4.00 *Cartoon*. Word association game presented by Paul Cole.
 - 4.30 *Royal Institution Christmas Lectures*. Crystal Miracles by Professor J.M. Thomas, the third in a series of six lectures on Crystals and Lasers.
 - 5.30 *The Victorian Affair*. Garden. Part one of a 13-part series tracing the restoration of a walled garden. Presented by Peter Thoday and Harry Dodson (r). (Contax)
 - 6.00 *Film: Three for All (1974)* starring Adrienne Posta, Cheryl
 - Hall and Lesley North. Pop music oriented comedy about a British band on a tour of Spain and their girlfriend's attempts to make contact with them. Directed by Martin Campbell.
 - 7.35 *Schubert's Piano Sonata in B flat major, D950*, in the Great Hall of the Middle Temple, London. Introduced by Jane Glover.
 - 8.10 *Thames Evidence*. Neglect: Peter France introduces three films examining ways in which the country's historical records are under attack.
 - 8.40 *M*A*S*H*. A sudden increase in the number of wounded, a fire and a tented downpour, throw the 407th into confusion. Starring Alan Alda, Mike Farrell and Harry Morgan (r).
 - 8.55 *Campaign*. (Contax) (see Choice)
 - 10.15 *Heavenly Bodies*. In the first of a series of musical tours the Scottish singer visits the Isles of Scilly.
 - 10.45 *Newsnight* with Peter Snow, Donald MacCormick and Adam Raphael.
 - 11.30 *Weather*.

- CHANNEL 4**
- 12.00 *Business Daily*.
 - 12.30 *Just 4 Fun*. For children 1.00 *Science Street*. Series for pre-school children.
 - 2.00 *Snooker*. First round action in the Mercantile Credit Classic from Northwick Castle, Blackpool.
 - 6.00 *A Horse's Tale*. A documentary about a Cornish farm and his dilemma of what to do with his faithful grey mare who has saved him over the years in order to buy a tractor (r).
 - 6.30 *Allo! Allo!*. Highlights of the Wild Card games.
 - 6.50 *So We Bought a Computer*. The first of a six-part series in which various people talk about why they bought a computer and the advice they sought before they decided on what to buy (r).
 - 7.00 *Channel 4 News*.
 - 7.50 *Comment* followed by *Weather*.
 - 8.00 *Every Window Tells a Story*. Malcolm Miller examines how stained glass can reveal the lives of our ancestors (r). (Oracle)
 - 8.30 *Allo! Allo!*. A weekly report on Labour's disillusioned voters - the dockers, manual
 - workers and new entrepreneurs - who think the Party is failing them.
 - 9.00 *Gals on Top*. Comedy series about four desperate young women who rent a flat in a house owned by an eccentric, tattered woman. Starring Tracey, Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders, Ruby Wax and Joan Greenwood (r). (Oracle)
 - 9.30 *Woman in View*. The first of a new current affairs series for women presented by Judith Spradford and Tess Woodcraft. Tonight's programme visits a maternity hospital occupied by mothers trying to prevent its closure; and examines the effects of the advertising campaign aimed at convincing women of the benefits of nuclear power.
 - 10.00 *Film: Oh! What a Lovely War (1969)* starring John Mills, Joan Collins, Susan Lucci, Oliver and Susannah York. Award-winning musical satire of the folly and horror of the First World War. Based on the play by Joan Littlewood and directed by Richard Attenborough. Ends at 12.30.



Tess Woodcraft (left) and Jackie Spreckley, presenters of the new current affairs series Woman in View (C4, 9.30pm)

- VARIATIONS**
- 10.30 *Curling* 11.35 *Snooker* 12.15 *Team News* 12.40 *Drum* 12.55 *Reportage* 1.00 *Scottish* 1.05 *Reportage* 1.10 *Scottish* 1.15 *Reportage* 1.20 *Scottish* 1.25 *Reportage* 1.30 *Scottish* 1.35 *Reportage* 1.40 *Scottish* 1.45 *Reportage* 1.50 *Scottish* 1.55 *Reportage* 2.00 *Scottish* 2.05 *Reportage* 2.10 *Scottish* 2.15 *Reportage* 2.20 *Scottish* 2.25 *Reportage* 2.30 *Scottish* 2.35 *Reportage* 2.40 *Scottish* 2.45 *Reportage* 2.50 *Scottish* 2.55 *Reportage* 3.00 *Scottish* 3.05 *Reportage* 3.10 *Scottish* 3.15 *Reportage* 3.20 *Scottish* 3.25 *Reportage* 3.30 *Scottish* 3.35 *Reportage* 3.40 *Scottish* 3.45 *Reportage* 3.50 *Scottish* 3.55 *Reportage* 4.00 *Scottish* 4.05 *Reportage* 4.10 *Scottish* 4.15 *Reportage* 4.20 *Scottish* 4.25 *Reportage* 4.30 *Scottish* 4.35 *Reportage* 4.40 *Scottish* 4.45 *Reportage* 4.50 *Scottish* 4.55 *Reportage* 5.00 *Scottish* 5.05 *Reportage* 5.10 *Scottish* 5.15 *Reportage* 5.20 *Scottish* 5.25 *Reportage* 5.30 *Scottish* 5.35 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سكنا عن الاموال

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1437.1 (+35.1)

FT-SE 100
1789.8 (+42.1)

Bargains
27878 (17944)

USM (Datastream)
140.79 (+2.33)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8280 (-0.0445)

W German mark
2.9751 (+0.0016)

Trade-weighted
75.4 (-0.5)

ICL cuts S African interests

ICL says it will scale back its interest in South Africa by selling part of its 93 per cent shareholding in its South African subsidiary to a local conglomerate for undisclosed terms.

The British computer company, which is part of STC, has been doing business in South Africa through its subsidiary ICL South Africa Ltd since 1968.

ICL said the British parent company would repatriate some of the capital invested in its South African operation, but declined to give further details. It is to form a new holding company for its South African interests jointly controlled by ICL in Britain and Malak Ltd, a local industrial holding company. It declined to give precise figures on shareholdings.

FNFC soars

First National Finance Corporation shared a successful year with its shareholders yesterday, awarding them a 33 per cent dividend increase to 11.99p net. Profits before tax for the year to October 31 jumped 46 per cent to a record £53.1 million and earnings per share rose 13 per cent to 30.9p.

Magazine buy

Reader's Digest said it had acquired the magazine Family Handyman, which has a circulation of 1.2 million, from Maxwell Communications for an undisclosed sum.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2048.78 (+34.48)
Nikkei Average	21575.28 (+338.24)	
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2408.22 (+116.88)
Amsterdam	AEX	218.0 (+12.3)
Sydney	ASX	1908.4 (+12.0)
London	FT 30	1437.1 (+35.1)
Paris	CAC	3702.2 (+33.9)
Zurich	SIX	426.5 (+18.8)
Frankfurt	DAX	1284.5 (+47.4)
Bonn	General	3702.2 (+33.9)
Brussels	General	3702.2 (+33.9)
Stockholm	General	3702.2 (+33.9)
Oslo	General	3702.2 (+33.9)
Copenhagen	General	3702.2 (+33.9)
Helsinki	General	3702.2 (+33.9)
Tallinn	General	3702.2 (+33.9)
Riga	General	3702.2 (+33.9)
Vilnius	General	3702.2 (+33.9)
Kiev	General	3702.2 (+33.9)
Moscow	General	3702.2 (+33.9)
Beijing	General	3702.2 (+33.9)
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Dee challenges financing behind £2bn Barker bid

By Alison Eadie

Dee Corporation, the super-markets group under siege from the much smaller Barker & Dobson, yesterday took the unusual step of writing to B&D shareholders challenging the financing of B&D's £2 billion bid.

Mr Alec Monk, chairman of Dee, questioned whether the bid was in the best interests of the shareholders. He also asserted that B&D would be in breach of its loan agreement with Citicorp from the beginning.

Dee's auditor, Grant Thornton, backed up the assertion with a letter stating that the consolidated total borrowings engendered by the takeover would materially exceed the maximum borrowings permitted under the loan agreement. B&D hit back both at Dee's

defence document, issued on Monday, and at the letter to its shareholders. It denied the banks would be running the enlarged group and denied that B&D would be in breach of its loan covenant, unless Dee had borrowed substantially more than the figure in its last accounts.

Mr Bay Green, of Kleinwort Benson which is advising B&D, said that Grant Thornton's calculations assumed there would be 100 per cent drawdown of the entire £1.6 billion loan, if the bid was accepted in full on the day it went unconditional.

In real life this would not happen he said, as acceptances on the day of going unconditional are usually not much more than 50 per cent. The £1.6 billion also included £350 million of working capital,

which would not be required immediately, and would be reduced by disposals as further acceptances were trickling in.

B&D also rejected Dee's allegation that the banks would receive £4 million if the bid failed, saying the correct figure if the bid failed was £1 million.

Mr John Fletcher, B&D chairman, called Dee's defence "a sad committee effort. It really serves to emphasize the absence of retailing skills in Dee."

B&D states that Dee has admitted in its defence that its superstores are underperforming and that the defence document conveniently ignores Dee's latest results altogether. Mr Monk visited Sir Gor-

don Borrie, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, yesterday and gave the first institutional presentation to Warburg Securities, Dee's broker.

Mr Monk said yesterday that B&D had had scant regard for its own shareholders. He suggested that B&D's extraordinary meeting of shareholders scheduled for next Wednesday should be postponed to give B&D time to present the additional financial information to its shareholders.

B&D denied that it had withheld information and said the meeting would not be postponed. Mr Green said that if a company had sound arguments to defend itself from a bid, it would not need to write to the offeror's shareholders to try to stop them approving the bid.

Hanson in £12m paint disposal

Hanson Industries, the American side of Hanson, has sold Tintas Ypiranga, its Brazilian paint operations, to Akzo, the Dutch chemicals group, for \$22.3 million (£12.2 million).

The paint operations were part of the SCM group, which Hanson acquired for \$930 million two years ago.

With the latest sale Hanson has recouped almost \$1 billion from disposals from SCM, yet it has retained about half of the original assets, including the chemicals business, Smith Corona typewriters, Durkee Foods and paper and metals operations. The retained operations generate operating revenue of \$150 million to \$200 million a year.

Annual net sales of Ypiranga came to \$65 million last year. The company's product range consists mainly of decorative paints and coatings for industrial applications.

Hanson also announced yesterday that shareholders of Kiddle had approved its takeover, making it a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hanson.

The \$1.7 billion acquisition of the American conglomerate, which has more than 100 separate operating units and 33,000 employees, will present Hanson with new challenges and opportunities in 1988, Hanson Industries' chairman, Sir Gordon White, said.

Pepe lifts turnover to £38m

By Michael Tate

Pepe Group, the USM-quoted jeans manufacturer, almost doubled its first-half turnover from £20.81 million a year ago to £38.29 million in the six months to end-September 1987 thanks to last April's purchase of Buffalo.

Although Buffalo, the Bordeaux casual clothes maker, made a small profit, it does not have nearly the same margins as Pepe, and the increase was restricted to 46 per cent at £3.87 million against £2.65 million.

Pepe reports good sales growth in the UK and saw licence income double following the introduction of the Hardcore shoe range. The second half will include the first sales by the company's leatherwear licensee.

Group earnings per share improved from 6.5p to 10.1p, but the interim dividend is unchanged at 1.5p.

COMMENT The final indignity for BP shareholders

The final indignity has fallen on the 270,000 innocent souls who subscribed for new shares of British Petroleum at 120p. BP will miss its profits forecast made in the prospectus.

Little does it matter that few, if any, of those people purchased their ill-starred investment on the basis of BP's forecast of replacement cost profits, nor that the forecast of current cost profits has been moved up rather than down. Nor does it matter that the oil analysts were already a step ahead of the announcement. It was already clear to the professionals that the weakness of the sterling oil price would dent BP's profits and the confirmation that the forecast was £100 million too high caused no reaction in the share price.

The real mess-up this time lies in the timing. BP says that it brought the announcement out bright and early yesterday because the buy-back arrangements with the Bank of England close today. But for the small investor who is likely to take advantage of the buy-back plan, the information was 24 hours too late. The first he will know about BP's run of bad luck will be when he reads about it in the newspapers and if he is fast on his feet he may be able to get his form into the NatWest Bank or the Bank of England itself before the three o'clock deadline this afternoon. If not, if he can show proof of posting before three, he should still be able to take the

Bank's 70p. But it is unreasonably short notice.

The profits forecast amendment will not make much difference to investors' decisions and any small investor with a few hundred shares who wants out would be wise to take the Bank of England's money rather than sell in the market. By the time the dealing charges are taken into account, the Bank's 70p looks a sight more attractive than the market's 73p.

But contrary to earlier expectations, the price of the partly-paid shares now looks unlikely to collapse when the 70p support is removed this afternoon. The Kuwait Investment Office is still buying and provides a happy escape route for any institution or underwriter with shares still to sell. The Kuwait operation now has to be seen as something more complicated than a pure investment play and a bid for BP itself no longer looks out of the question. Control of BP would give the Kuwaitis the opportunity to add value to its crude oil production, while BP's tally of 3 per cent of free world crude supply would provide Kuwait with additional influence over world prices.

Neither BP nor the British Government is delighted at such an idea, but until the Kuwait Investment Office passes the 29.9 per cent shareholding level, at which a bid would be triggered, can either of them legitimately do much about it.

Hush... whisper who dares

All over the City there are Christians and Robins saying prayers asking for Sir Kenneth Berrill's term as chairman of the Securities and Investments Board to be brought to an end in May. The whispering campaign against Sir Kenneth survived Christmas and the New Year celebrations, and will die down only when either he is ousted or his reappointment confirmed. One or the other is likely within weeks.

Sir Kenneth could not hope to be popular. Everyone is against sin, yes, but when regulation causes the good guys anguish which they feel should be suffered only by outright crooks, then they do not like it.

The clearing banks in particular will never forgive Sir Kenneth for pushing through the "polarization" issue, which in effect brings to an end their ability to offer sloppy advice of questionable independence to customers seeking insurance and savings products. They wanted the bad guys stamped out, but never imagined that their own lucrative business of selling their own insurance and savings schemes through the bank managers would be hit. When it became clear that Sir Kenneth was not prepared to budge on the issue, the bankers went to see Sir Kenneth, hoping to see Sir Kenneth and his happy band of

lawyers put firmly in their places. They were disappointed.

The clearers count the Bank Governor, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, as one of their own number, and it is known that the Bank has been thinking hard about a successor to the unyielding Sir Kenneth. The appointment of the SIB chairman is the joint responsibility of the Governor and Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and while the former may have reservations, the latter has already gone on record with his support for Sir Kenneth. That said, Mr Leigh-Pemberton is not about to hang up his hat either.

The trench warfare between the SIB and the industries which it will regulate has, however, produced a number of compromises which could be taken as a softening of Lord Young's previous hard line defence. The most recent was the decision to take the pricing of unit trust purchases away from the SIB and reinstate it with the DTI, which authorizes unit trusts.

The pre-Christmas unit trust episode should not, however, allow us to write off Sir Kenneth just yet. He is likely to be allowed to oversee the implementation of his regulations over the next year or so. And then, job done, he will move on.

Spending spree pushes saving to lowest for nearly 30 years

By David Smith

Economics Correspondent
Strong growth in consumer spending pushed the proportion saved out of income to its lowest level for nearly 30 years in the third quarter of last year, official figures released yesterday showed.

The saving ratio dropped to 5 per cent, its lowest level since the fourth quarter of 1959. In the second quarter of last year the ratio was 6.4 per cent. By comparison, the ratio for 1981 averaged 13 per cent.

Officials at the Central Statistical Office said the saving ratio was derived from the difference between consumer spending and personal disposable income, and subject to wide margins of error.

They suggested that a better guide to the trend in personal saving was provided by the figures for the first three quarters of last year, showing an average saving ratio of 6.5 per cent, compared with 7.5 per cent in the whole of 1986.

Even so, the figures added to worries in the financial markets about excessive growth of demand in the economy.

"We were really quite concerned about the figures for the saving ratio," said Miss Joanne Curley, an economist at Morgan Grenfell. "They suggest that consumer spending is growing far too quickly."

A contributory factor to the fall in saving may have been the pensions holidays introduced by some companies, which could have reduced involuntary saving by individuals.

However, the main explanation was a determination by consumers to maintain spending, even if this resulted in a rundown of savings and a rise in borrowing.

Total personal disposable income grew by 2 per cent between the second and third quarters, while consumer spending rose by 3.6 per cent.

In the 12 months to the third quarter, personal disposable income rose by 6.6 per

PERSONAL INCOME AND SAVING

	Personal disposable income (£bn)	Consumers' expenditure (£bn)	Personal saving (£bn)	Saving ratio (%)
1985 Q1	57.81	52.22	5.59	9.4
Q2	58.82	52.92	5.90	10.2
Q3	59.64	54.59	5.05	8.5
Q4	61.09	55.71	5.38	8.8
1986 Q1	62.31	57.28	5.02	8.1
Q2	63.44	58.51	4.93	7.8
Q3	64.46	59.39	4.57	7.1
Q4	65.44	60.91	4.53	6.9
1987 Q1	66.68	61.75	4.93	7.4
Q2	67.31	62.97	4.34	6.4
Q3	68.69	65.24	3.44	5.0

Source: Central Statistical Office

Profits of industrial and commercial companies rose by 7 per cent in the third quarter.

There was a recovery in North Sea profits, in line with the rise in world oil prices. North Sea profits rose by 8 per cent in the third quarter, to a level 50 per cent up on a year earlier.

Non-oil profits also rose strongly, rising by 7 per cent in the third quarter to about 20 per cent up on the corresponding period of 1986.

Officials said profit comparisons with a year earlier were complicated by the privatizations of British Gas, British Airways and the British Airports Authority, but even after allowing for the transfer of these from the public to the private sector the underlying growth in profits was strong.

Company borrowing was heavy in the third quarter, with borrowing from banks at £4.3 billion, up from £1.8 billion in the second quarter, and borrowing on the capital markets at £9.4 billion, up from £4.7 billion.

The financial surplus of industrial and commercial companies fell to £2.18 billion in the third quarter, from £3.05 billion in the previous quarter.

ECC call for 'balanced' energy control

By Roland Knud

The Government was urged yesterday to balance the dominance of the electricity generating sector when it privatizes the industry by giving more power to the distribution companies. In a new report the Electricity Consumers' Council gives a warning that if the generating sector were allowed to wield effective control over all the power station operators the public would not benefit from privatization.

The ECC argues that even if the Central Electricity Generating Board were to be split up the new generating companies would still dwarf the distribution companies which would take over from the area

electricity boards. In financial terms the area boards are already overshadowed by the CEBG, which accounts for 74 per cent of the industry's expenditure and 73 per cent of its assets.

The ECC believes the only way to split up the monopoly and inject competition into the industry is to ensure that local distribution companies "have sufficient clout to get a good deal from the generating companies".

But the ECC questions the popular assumption that the most effective method of decentralizing power is to allow the privatized boards to run their own power stations. Mr Tony Boorman, the deputy director of the ECC, yesterday warned that such a

system would be a "regulatory nightmare". Instead he wants the new distribution companies to have the power to invite other firms to tender for supply contracts, a common practice in the United States.

The ECC argues that such a system would help counter the dominance of the generating sector and solve the vexed question of who has the duty to maintain supplies.

After reviewing the different options for privatizing the area boards, the report concludes that if the relationship between the generating and distribution companies is changed "there is no good reason to amalgamate the Area Boards". The strongest advocate for amalgamation,

the Electricity Council, would, under the ECC's proposals, make way for a trade federation or a service company.

Subject to certain safeguards, the ECC believes that customers should be able to opt out of the system and establish their own independent distribution system.

Mr Boorman points out that if the customers' interests are to be protected "there must be a firm regulatory control over the price and standards of service offered by the private companies".

Privatisation and the Electricity Boards: £5 from the Electricity Consumers' Council, Brook House, 2-16 Torrington Place, London, WC1E 7LJ.

Brunning back in the black

By Joe Joseph

Restructuring by new management has led the Brunning Group back into the black, with the formerly troubled advertising agency reporting pretax profits of £357,000 in the six months to September 30, against a loss of £208,000 previously.

Turnover was up fractionally at £29.2 million, with earnings per share rising to 7.9p from a loss of 3.2p previously. Shareholders who missed out on an interim dividend last year, will receive a half-way payment of 1.25p.

Mr Trevor Shonfield, Brunning's chief executive and head of the team which took over the running of the company from the Brunning family in June 1986 - attributed the revival to a freshly motivated management which has cut out loss-making and peripheral activities.

"This was quite a turnaround," Mr Shonfield said yesterday. "It's been hard work, but it's only the first step as far as we are concerned."

Brunning, which handles MFI and the Halifax Building Society, recently secured the Toyota UK account, worth nearly £7 million a year.



Aiming to build the company: Trevor Shonfield, Brunning's chief executive, at the group's London offices yesterday (Photograph: James Morgan)

Ladbroke cashes in Mecca shares

By Cliff Feltham

Ladbroke, the hotel and betting group, has been quick off the mark to raise about £3.6 million from the sale of 3 million shares in Mecca Leisure, the social club and holiday centre group.

Mecca paid Ladbroke £50 million in cash and issued the block of shares last month in return for the purchase of its

holiday centre and catering interests.

The deal means a speedy profit for Ladbroke. Mecca shares were changing hands at 165p when the sale took place and the pricing price of 184p gives the company a profit of about £500,000. The shares were placed with City institutions.

Coates takeover likely

Coates Brothers, the printing ink manufacturer, is likely to announce the end of its outdated, two-tier share structure today when it confirms the purchase of Lorilleux International, the industrial inks offshoot of Cdf Chimie, the French state-owned chemical group.

The deal is expected to involve the issue of shares, giving Cdf Chimie a 33.4 per

cent stake in the enlarged group. The move will substantially dilute the 20 per cent holding in Coates by Adelaide Steamship, the Australian investment group.

At present, the Coates family controls almost 50 per cent of the voting shares but proposals, expected to enfranchise the non-voting "A" shares, will also reduce its grip on the company.

APV looks East for sales growth

By Michael Tate

The Soviet Union and China are being targeted as key areas for a marketing push by APV, the revitalized manufacturer of food and drink processing equipment.

Last year's acquisition of Pasiac, the Danish dairy equipment group, brought with it operations in Moscow and a number of Chinese cities. Sir Ronald McIntosh, the chairman, believes these markets have "great potential". He said yesterday that the group's strategy included developing these activities.

It is also keen to have a bigger presence in the important West German market, where it is looking to establish trading associations.

Under Sir Ronald and Mr Fred Smith, chief executive, APV has become the world's leading manufacturer of machinery for the food and drink processing industry, with a turnover of more than

£850 million and 1987 profits expected to be more than £40 million.

But it has always had what Sir Ronald calls "an exaggeratedly low profile." So it is spending £1.5 million to streamline the group's 200-plus divisions to nine main subsidiaries and promote a new corporate identity.

APV's reorganization, begun in 1984, has brought in Baker Perkins and the West German brewing machinery maker, APV Rossm, besides Pasiac. At the same time it has lessened its dependence on dollar earnings.

Meanwhile the rationalization continues. More peripheral businesses, such as its Danish travel and shipping agency and the foundry business, are for sale, while there are hopes of extending products into areas such as fruit treatment and packaging.

Prince gets down to business

Never normally bashful about speaking his mind, the Prince of Wales is, I hear, being uncharacteristically low-key - indeed, almost secretive - about his latest appeal to raise some £15 million for The Prince's Youth Business Trust. A lesser-known sibling of The Prince's Trust, the business trust has, in one form or another, been going for several years and is soon to celebrate its 4,000th grant to 18- to 25-year-olds with viable business propositions. Almost all of those beneficiaries are now running successful businesses, with the help of specialist advice - arranged by the Trust - from accountants, lawyers and others. But its latest fund-raising effort, which will enable it to offer a nationwide service, has so far been shrouded in a cloak of secrecy with the committee concerned tip-toeing to the doors of big business, asking for donations, without any of the publicity that usually heralds such ventures. Strange though such behaviour might seem, there is apparently a valid reason. Ever-conscious of the feelings of others less fortunate than himself, the prince is, according to informed sources, determined not to raise the hopes of aspiring tycoons until the Trust has sufficient financial backing to give them the help they need. Once the money has started to roll in, rest assured that every company in Britain will be aware of its existence.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

O'Reilly Keeps faith

Heinz 57 boss Tony O'Reilly is putting his money where his mouth is. After investing some £11.2 million in garage group Keep Trust, in return for a 30 per cent share stake - via Irish investment company Fitzwilliam - the former Ireland international rugby star will, I hear, be speaking at an institutional presentation in

London later today. The presentation has been arranged by broker Barclays de Zoete Wedd, which became an adviser to Keep just before Christmas. Clearly expecting the colourful O'Reilly to retain his usual Midland touch, market makers yesterday marked Keep shares 20p higher to 358p.

Chinese Cook

With Sir Kit McMahon's bags barely unpacked from his trip to Moscow, it seems that others in the Midland bank are already following his example - and offering the hand of friendship to the communist world. Midland subsidiary Thomas Cook Travellers Cheques will tonight be hosting a reception at, of all places, the Chinese Embassy, in honour of Liverpoolian runner William

Lindsay who has spent the last eight months trekking 2,000 miles along the Great Wall. Fellow star guest will be Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and best wishes have already been dispatched by China's new ambassador to Britain, Ji Chao Zhu. The reason for such celebration? Thomas Cook claims to have pipped the Americans by becoming the first to link up with the Bank of China to distribute US dollar denominated travellers cheques in China.

\$50m men

Talk about jobs for the boys. Between now and the US Presidential election on November 8, the cost of guarding the candidates round the clock is expected to soar to more than \$50 million. The bill for each candidate is estimated at no less than \$20,000 a day. Leading Republican contender Senator Robert Dole has queried such excessive Secret Service costs.

Doctor's orders

Company doctor Maurice Fullerton has done it again. His latest patient, Associated Energy Services, which was losing £450,000 a year when he took over the helm in 1985, yesterday unveiled a dramatic jump in pretax profits from £5,000 to £105,500. Its core business - supplying and maintaining catering equipment, such as heavy duty cookers, and cleaning hotel kitchens (for example the Grosvenor House hotel) - is going well and, cheered accountant Fullerton, a former partner of Coopers & Lybrand's management consultancy, is now on the lookout for acquisitions. "It doesn't matter what they are," he says. "The only obstacle is our share price, because any acquisition would have to be for paper." Standing at 11p when he took over, AES shares fell from a peak of 65p before the stock market crash to just 24p. "If we were to sell our three subsidiaries they would produce well in excess of our present £1.6 million capitalization," Fullerton laments.

Las Vegas, the gambling capital of the world and a town not normally known for its dignity, has disdainfully decided against inviting bets on the next occupant of the White House. "It wouldn't be dignified," explained a spokesman for Caesar's Palace to an ex-pat Brit who couldn't understand why the round-the-clock casino had not yet opened a book for the 13 Presidential candidates.

Carol Leonard

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The new APV.
To achieve real international stature, you first have to get into shape.



The new APV doesn't just look different. ▲ It is different, through and through. We've brought together three world leaders in food and beverage process technology – APV, Baker Perkins and Pasilac. ▲ And we've restructured them into a powerful new force. ▲ Where there were two hundred local businesses, there are now under a dozen global businesses. Over 14,000 employees. And around £1 billion in sales. Where there was separation, there is now a single-minded determination – to beat the world in our chosen markets. ▲ And where there was individual excellence, there is now co-ordinated excellence – harnessed, organised, responsive to opportunities across the world. ▲ In food and beverage processing, in chemicals, in plastics and in printing, the new APV is in shape. To take on the world.



The world's food engineers.

87.50	Feb 143.0-40.0	Aug 121.0-20.0	Jan	unq.	108.80	Scotland (%)	+18.0	-15.9	-12.4
143.70	Apr 189.5-38.0	Oct 122.0-20.5	Feb	unq.	104.30	Scotland (p)	72.95	177.81	107.40
157.30	194.5-22.0		Mar		101.00				

Portfolio - Gold -

From your portfolio card check your gold share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gold or Silver
1	Crowther (I)	Textiles	Gold
2	Dela	Industrials A-D	Gold
3	Brown (N)	Drumage	Gold
4	Bodycote	Industrials A-D	Gold
5	Shiloh	Industrials S-Z	Gold
6	TNT	Industrials S-Z	Gold
7	Camford Eng	Industrials A-D	Gold
8	Hong Kong Land	Property	Gold
9	Boaker	Food	Gold
10	Novo Rubber	Industrials A-D	Gold
11	Lawson Comm	Newspapers/Pub	Gold
12	Mail Eng	Industrials E-K	Gold
13	Reynolds	Industrials A-D	Gold
14	Essex Trust	Property	Gold
15	Wade Picture	Industrials S-Z	Gold
16	Buckley	Textiles	Gold
17	AS Elm	Electricals	Gold
18	Mouthigh	Property	Gold
19	Bank Of India	Bank/Discount	Gold
20	Armstrong	Motor/Aircraft	Gold
21	Allied Colloid	Chemicals/Plas	Gold
22	Remondis	Industrials L-R	Gold
23	Color Co	Oil/Gas	Gold
24	Rowley (as)	Industrials E-K	Gold
25	Victor	Industrials S-Z	Gold
26	Tollis	Industrials S-Z	Gold
27	Amwood	Building/Roads	Gold
28	Crystalite	Electricals	Gold
29	Rouvenor (as)	Food	Gold
30	Bynes (Charles)	Industrials A-D	Gold
31	Hemphill	Property/Print/Adv	Gold
32	Nestor-SNA	Industrials L-R	Gold
33	Loe & Ehn Tst	Property	Gold
34	Diploma	Industrials A-D	Gold
35	McAlister	Industrials L-R	Gold
36	Waterford Glass	Industrials S-Z	Gold
37	Metal Box (as)	Industrials A-D	Gold
38	Wood (SW)	Industrials S-Z	Gold
39	BTR (as)	Industrials A-D	Gold
40	Stanley Latham	Leisure	Gold
41	Pearl Duffryn	Industrials L-R	Gold
42	Hambro Country	Property	Gold
43	Stoddart	Textiles	Gold
44	Morgan Crucible	Industrials L-R	Gold

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £24,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Open	Close

SHORTS (Under Five Years)
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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Open	Close

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

More widespread gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 21. Dealings end on Friday. Settlement day January 11. Settlement day January 18.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 18.)

No.	Company	Group	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	Vol	PE
1	Crowther (I)	Textiles	100	99	99	99	-1	100	10
2	Dela	Industrials A-D	101	100	100	100	-1	100	11
3	Brown (N)	Drumage	102	101	101	101	-1	100	12
4	Bodycote	Industrials A-D	103	102	102	102	-1	100	13
5	Shiloh	Industrials S-Z	104	103	103	103	-1	100	14
6	TNT	Industrials S-Z	105	104	104	104	-1	100	15
7	Camford Eng	Industrials A-D	106	105	105	105	-1	100	16
8	Hong Kong Land	Property	107	106	106	106	-1	100	17
9	Boaker	Food	108	107	107	107	-1	100	18
10	Novo Rubber	Industrials A-D	109	108	108	108	-1	100	19
11	Lawson Comm	Newspapers/Pub	110	109	109	109	-1	100	20
12	Mail Eng	Industrials E-K	111	110	110	110	-1	100	21
13	Reynolds	Industrials A-D	112	111	111	111	-1	100	22
14	Essex Trust	Property	113	112	112	112	-1	100	23
15	Wade Picture	Industrials S-Z	114	113	113	113	-1	100	24
16	Buckley	Textiles	115	114	114	114	-1	100	25
17	AS Elm	Electricals	116	115	115	115	-1	100	26
18	Mouthigh	Property	117	116	116	116	-1	100	27
19	Bank Of India	Bank/Discount	118	117	117	117	-1	100	28
20	Armstrong	Motor/Aircraft	119	118	118	118	-1	100	29
21	Allied Colloid	Chemicals/Plas	120	119	119	119	-1	100	30
22	Remondis	Industrials L-R	121	120	120	120	-1	100	31
23	Color Co	Oil/Gas	122	121	121	121	-1	100	32
24	Rowley (as)	Industrials E-K	123	122	122	122	-1	100	33
25	Victor	Industrials S-Z	124	123	123	123	-1	100	34
26	Tollis	Industrials S-Z	125	124	124	124	-1	100	35
27	Amwood	Building/Roads	126	125	125	125	-1	100	36
28	Crystalite	Electricals	127	126	126	126	-1	100	37
29	Rouvenor (as)	Food	128	127	127	127	-1	100	38
30	Bynes (Charles)	Industrials A-D	129	128	128	128	-1	100	39
31	Hemphill	Property/Print/Adv	130	129	129	129	-1	100	40
32	Nestor-SNA	Industrials L-R	131	130	130	130	-1	100	41
33	Loe & Ehn Tst	Property	132	131	131	131	-1	100	42
34	Diploma	Industrials A-D	133	132	132	132	-1	100	43
35	McAlister	Industrials L-R	134	133	133	133	-1	100	44
36	Waterford Glass	Industrials S-Z	135	134	134	134	-1	100	45
37	Metal Box (as)	Industrials A-D	136	135	135	135	-1	100	46
38	Wood (SW)	Industrials S-Z	137	136	136	136	-1	100	47
39	BTR (as)	Industrials A-D	138	137	137	137	-1	100	48
40	Stanley Latham	Leisure	139	138	138	138	-1	100	49
41	Pearl Duffryn	Industrials L-R	140	139	139	139	-1	100	50
42	Hambro Country	Property	141	140	140	140	-1	100	51
43	Stoddart	Textiles	142	141	141	141	-1	100	52
44	Morgan Crucible	Industrials L-R	143	142	142	142	-1	100	53

Portfolio - Gold -

DAILY DIVIDEND

£4,000

Claims required for +58 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

OVERSEAS TRADERS

223	77	Chatterbox	140	147	97	67	21.30
750	73	Friday (Landed)	85	85	97	66	
752	136	Harmon Crockett	525	550	+12	57	25.50
753	136	Harmon Crockett	525	550	+12	57	25.50
363	180	London Taxi	523	555	+3	163	64
173	45	Osborn Wilson	49	54	+5	34	65
416	295	Patterson Zoo	310	320	+9	31	88
416	295	Do 1st	310	320	+9	31	88
168	103	Poly Pack	360	370	+10	168	88
168	30	Saver Eddy	57	65	+8		
224	50	Tenn Kentucky	70	73	+3	13	21

MEDIA & MARKETING

The discovery of women

The appointment of Eve Pollard as editor of the *Sunday Mirror* brings the number of women editors on national newspapers to two. If one swallow didn't make a summer, a brace seems at least to augur well for sunny spells. Or does it?

OPINION

Suzanne Lowry

Ten years ago, when women newscasters were still news and Mrs Thatcher was not yet Prime Minister, the prospect of a woman editor of a national newspaper seemed remote, radical. Now it seems a normal part of an inexorable progression — or regression — into a more personal, magazine, entertainment-orientated style of journalism.

And hey presto, from a situation in which there was, so it was argued, a dearth of the right kind of female talent and experience at the top, there exists a whole galaxy of promotable women.

It was thought, until recently, that the "quality" end of the Street would be the first to give women the high chance. After all, *The Times* and *The Guardian* each had had women news editors at a time when this would have been unthinkable on the tabloids. Not a bit of it.

Trailblazing Rupert Murdoch's *News of the World*, a notorious purveyor of Sunday sex, sexism and scandal, last year appointed 33-year-old Wendy Henry as editor. She was said to be "competent", "tough" and "professional". Pollard attracts the same epithets. She comes from a series of impressive jobs, on the *Sunday Mirror* and the *Mail on Sunday's* *You* magazine. That pedigree and the final jump are significant.

It was, again, the *News of the World* that launched the first of the "popular" Sunday supplement with *Sun Day* in 1981; then *You* was created, aiming unashamedly at women readers. There followed a time of frenzied hiring and re-hiring of women

magazine editors in Fleet Street — by *You*, the *Sunday Telegraph*, *Sunday Times* and *Observer* magazines. It was as if women journalists had just been invented.

According to the old newspaper formula, daddy read the serious, important bits while mummy read the fashion, cookery, gynaecology and, if she was clever, the book reviews.

Suddenly it dawned that mummy wasn't "just a housewife" any more, but a breadwinner, a bank clerk, a businesswoman or goodness knows what else besides or instead. And she had her own money to spend.

Advertising people started talking about "the ambitious woman" and casting her in commercials. Fleet Street editors were slower to catch on to this contradictory creature. To many of them, women were divided into groups — feminists, creatures who never bought anything, sexpots who didn't think anything, and little women who scoured supermarkets for bargains.

But the specific and serious arguments that were going on about discrimination and equality led to a host of other arguments, in a massive social and domestic shift which is still in progress.

Willy ally, women's subjects, like women themselves, began to seep into the journalistic mainstream. For example, health — once seen primarily as a woman's page topic — now often gets a page to itself.

At the same time, a concern with "lifestyle" and "leisure" has spawned huge weekend sections of consumer and behavioural features, with advertising to match.

Against this background it is scarcely surprising that two popular Sunday newspapers should appoint women editors. Whether they develop into pawns or pioneers remains to be seen.

Suzanne Lowry is a features editor with *The International Herald Tribune*.

Geoffrey Owen edits the *Financial Times* from a frayed chair in an office overlooking St Paul's cathedral. At his side rests an old-fashioned typewriter. The bookshelves have a 1950s lending library look about them and Owen's desk is flanked by 14 chairs, the visible evidence of his collegiate editing style.

The room may say something about Owen, but neither it nor its location in the listed Bracken House in the City offers a clue to the real *FT*, which will mark this, its centenary year, by joining the exodus from the old newspaper stamping grounds.

In the summer, the *FT's* printing operation moves to a glass-fronted works at the old East India Dock. Commuters on the A13 may glimpse through the windows the *FT* being produced on two seven-unit offset presses stretching 100 metres inside the works — an appropriate symbol for the paper and its expansionary ambitions. Each press will allow the *FT* to print 56 pages in up to four sections

and another, eight-unit press, permitting 64 pages, is already on order.

Editorial and advertising departments are also moving house, but south rather than east — to a building on the south side of Southwark Bridge. "The *FT* is essentially a child of the City in that our roots are here," says chief executive Frank Barlow. "We do not feel it would be right to stray too far."

The printing works officially comes on stream in July — at the height of the centenary celebrations — but to some extent the focus of attention has switched from the journalistic activities of the robust pink "child of the City" to the susceptibility of its parent to a takeover.

Rupert Murdoch's taking of a stake in the Pearson Group of close to 15 per cent raised the spectre of a change of ownership for the *FT*, one which refuses to go away despite firm denials on both sides. But in Barlow's sixth floor office and that of Owen on the second floor, the focus is clearly on beginning the *FT's* second century as impressively as it is ending the first.

The *FT's* debut was as a four-page broadsheet on February 13 1888, announcing itself as the friend of "the honest financier, the bona fide investor and the respectable broker". For many years it competed fiercely with the less respected *Financial News*, adopting pink paper to distinguish



The *Financial Times* is 100 years old this year and, as Andrew Lycett finds, it has never been healthier. But can it fend off buyers if it continues to expand?



Facing the future: Frank Barlow (left) and Geoffrey Owen at Bracken House

itself from its rival in 1893. In 1945 the *News* took over the *FT* but the latter sold more copies and had a higher reputation, so *Financial Times* was the name that lived on.

It has never been stronger. Barlow reels off the figures: an average sale for the second half of 1987 passing 300,000 for the first time, a November peak of 317,000, circulation up 40 per cent in the last five years, four years of record profit growth.

The breakdown of the figures for the circulation increase — up 32 per cent in Britain, 37 per cent in the rest of

Street Journal in the US. But Barlow is sceptical, on grounds of cost-effectiveness. He points out that the publishers of *USA Today* have spent more than \$2 billion without yet securing their market niche and the *Wall Street Journal* is still not making a profit in Asia.

Barlow is defensive about another major attraction for the buyers: the *FT's* electronic database. "There are those idiots who think the *FT* has missed the boat and should be doing what Reuters does," he says, adding that such people do not understand the difference between Reuters' real-time dealing information and the *FT's* daily stock market details, with their value added in the form of price/earnings ratios, yields and dividends. Barlow says the *FT's* listings will be available on an historical basis in May, bringing additional revenue.

The *FT* has had its share of industrial relations troubles over the years, but Barlow hides himself on

the effectiveness of a no-nonsense approach and he has whittled down the workforce from 1,600 to 1,100, ready for the move to the new plant. *FT* journalists already use direct-imaging of stories but Barlow says there are no plans at present to go over to on-screen page make up.

Barlow once worked for Cecil King at the Mirror Group and says that one thing he learnt there was to let the editor edit: "If I edited a newspaper it would have a circulation of one."

Back on the second floor, the man who built a circulation of 300,000-plus says that for all the expansion overseas, there is still growth potential in the UK. Owen wants to "deepen our penetration of the British market" in two ways: putting more emphasis on domestic political and social events — "ensuring we're in the forefront of debate where in the old days our coverage might have been marginal, such as the Health Service — and pushing our business readership down from the boardroom to include the works and export managers."

And politically? "We're certainly not uncritical supporters of the present Government, but most of the things it has done we have been in favour of. We judge issues on a case by case basis. We have certain guidelines of thought. We believe in the efficiency of markets, but we've not taken this to the point of a crusade."

Shah's chance

Could yet another national tabloid ever pay its way?

The new national tabloid announced by Eddy Shah this week should reach its 200,000 break-even circulation figure but it will have difficulty attracting advertising except at gateway prices, say the media watchers.

His intention to woo disaffected *Star* readers is explained by Terry Cossey, newspaper analyst for stockbrokers James Capel. "The tabloid market has been very soggy for some months. Shah is right to aim for that level," Cossey says.

But the finance, in his view, is a much less certain proposition. "After the problems of the *News on Sunday* and the *London Daily News*, the idea of the newspaper industry as a treasure trove has been discredited. If the institutions are to invest, the whole project will have to be put together in a far more rigorous fashion than was the case with *Today*."

Advertisers, too, doubt whether Shah has hit upon a formula to turn the paper into a huge success. "What can he offer that other people can't?" asked Alec Kenny, media director of Smithells. "I don't think that lack of clones is a unique selling point. And even if 400,000 people buy it, I am not sure that I would find the newspaper very attractive."

The point is echoed by Mike Wood, media director at J Walker Thompson. If advertising is to be picked up, he says, it will have to be sold at a very low price. "The other players are too large, and the newspaper wouldn't reach a new readership."

As for Fleet Street, the mood is sceptical. Tom Bakker, the veteran analyst, is bluntly dismissive. "It sounds like a turkey to me, he said. 'Shah is a printer, not a journalist. He doesn't know what he wants to do in journalistic terms. If he was going to succeed, it would have been with *Today*.'"

Kate Finch

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Phone (01) 583 1924 for an interview.

MEDIA & MARKETING

Round peg, square hole

Last night BBC2 showed *Kramer vs Kramer*, the emotionally harrowing Dustin Hoffman-Meryl Streep film about a divorced couple's fight for custody of their child, and not the sort of movie appropriate for showing before the BBC's 9pm "watershed".

But from this autumn BBC2's new controller, Alan Yentob, will find it increasingly difficult to show a film like *Kramer vs Kramer* at all — because at 100 minutes it is simply too long.

The controversial decision by BBC director-general Michael Checkland to schedule BBC2's *Newsnight* at 10.30 each evening will make it impossible to squeeze any film longer than 90 minutes into the BBC2 weekday schedule if the "common junction" between BBC1 and BBC2 at the start of the *Nine O'Clock News* (when viewers

can switch to the other BBC channel rather than to ITV) is maintained.

"The only decent movies BBC2 will be able to show after a common junction will be Woody Allen, and they've just done those," says one ITV executive. "Having to fill fixed slots creates enormous scheduling problems unless you make all your own material or you cut it heavily — which isn't BBC2's style."

A glance at this week's BBC2 schedule reveals the extent of the problem. Only on Friday does *Newsnight* start at 10.30pm. On other nights, programmes are either too long, like *Kramer vs Kramer*, or just too short to fit a 9.30-10.30 slot

Advertisers and ITV chiefs are jubilant about a fixed time for *Newsnight*

Monday's *Moonlighting* and the new drama series *Campaign* tonight are both 50 minutes long and would leave the channel with an awkward 10-minute gap to fill.

Proponents of a fixed start time for *Newsnight* argue that viewers will always know when to find the programme, although whether this will increase its audience is a

debatable point. Ratings analyst Jane Perry at advertising agency Young & Rubicam says that *Newsnight* consistently has the lowest ratings of all four channels in its time-slot.

The audience (on average about a million) varies widely from day to day, though Perry says there is no obvious reason why. She concludes that a 10.30 start-time will make it easier for the programme's few loyal viewers to find it, but even easier for rival channels to schedule popular programmes in opposition.

And indeed ITV executives have reacted gleefully to the news. Andy Allen, Central TV's programme controller, is in no doubt that ITV

and Channel 4 will benefit, especially given the scheduling skills of Channel 4's newly-appointed chief executive, Michael Grade.

Better still, he adds, would be a longer *Nine O'Clock News*, which BBC deputy director-general John Birt also wants: "If they extend the *Nine O'Clock News* to 45 minutes that would be terrific. I can't wait."

Advertisers, too, believe the decision will increase commercial television's audience at the BBC's expense. "It's one of the best bits of news I've heard this year," says John Blakemore, head of television buying at Ogilvy & Mather. "My feeling was that ITV and Channel 4 combined looked likely to pull back to a 52 per cent share of the audience. I am now even more confident that that will happen."

Nick Higham

BYLINES

Price of independents

The BBC's harmonious relationship with independent producers has suffered a set-back with the discovery last month that the Corporation was on course to commission programmes worth £5 million more than it can afford.

Last summer Michael Grade announced that the BBC would be spending £10 million on 200 hours of independently-produced programming in 1988-89. Independents, like the BBC's own producers, were asked to put programme proposals to heads of department, who in turn took the proposals to Grade.

But following Grade's sudden departure to Channel 4, the BBC discovered that over-enthusiastic department heads had put into development no fewer than 246 hours of programmes, at a cost of £15 million. A rapid reassessment is now under way. Departments have been given until next week to decide which programmes will have to be postponed, cancelled or made more cheaply.

"Individual producers may feel aggrieved," says Paul Styles, of the Independent Programme Producers' Association, "but I'm advising people to be cool and to make business-like decisions." The over-commissioning, he says, is simply proof of the enthusiasm with which the BBC's middle management has embraced independent production.

Water sport

Nick Gordon, deputy editor of the *Daily Mail* for the past six months, is to succeed Eve Pollard as editor of the *Mail on Sunday's* magazine, *You*. Gordon has no magazine experience, but not inconsiderable editorial flair. His greatest achievement, when running the *Mail's* showbiz pages, was undoubtedly to persuade the retiring Admiral-of-the-Fleet Lord Hill-Norton to pose, surrounded by a fleet of boats and wearing his admiral's hat, in a Victorian pedestal bath.

spice for a television advertising campaign promoting the idea of visiting the dentist regularly. He has been lobbying London's six local dental committees for support and plans a meeting in May to promote the idea, on which he has been working with Covent Garden-based agency the Pearson Partnership. Dentists in Glasgow and Yorkshire have already run TV advertising campaigns, though with mixed success.

Briefing...

Solo mission?

Does the Government want to privatize BBC1? Home Office minister Timothy Renton left yesterday on a fact-finding trip to France and Italy, after a similar tour last year to look at broadcasting in the US and Canada. In Italy he will be looking at forthcoming legislation to reorganise some regulation on the country's chaotic broadcasting. But in France he will be inquiring into the success of the newly-privatized TF1, which, until transport magnate Francis Bouygues took control with Robert Maxwell, was the nearest French equivalent to the BBC's flagship channel.

Satellite TV has breached the Iron Curtain: Rupert Murdoch's Sky Channel is now available to 52,000 homes on cable systems in Hungary... News on Sunday chairman Owen Oyston has bought Derby County Council's shares in the defunct paper for £400,000 — £95,000 more than Derby paid for them... The commercial radio stations in Reading and Bournemouth are discussing a merger... Robert Maxwell has scrapped plans for *Striker*, a football magazine aimed at IPC's *Shoof*... The BBC wants to set up a chain of local radio stations in Europe to broadcast the World Service... Authors Sue Townsend and Alexei Sayle and cartoonist Steve Bell have pledged support to members of the NUJ at publisher Methuen, where new owner Octopus wants to withdraw union recognition...

Open wider

"Everyone thinks dentists are rich, but they're hopeless at putting their hands in their pockets," says Peter Varley, a dentist himself. Nevertheless he is hoping to get the 4,000 dentists in London and the South-east to stump up £100

Nick Higham

New brain for the BBC

The head of the Corporation's newly formed policy and planning unit tells Richard Evans of life in the think-tank — and puts a political ghost to rest

It is now more than 13 years since the young Conservative candidate, complete with a regulation rosette, posed for the Press on the steps of Islington town hall with a barrow full of 50p coins as a warning about inflation.

Despite her subsequent lack of political activity, and her highly successful career at the BBC, Patricia Hodgson has never been allowed to forget that appearance. "Ms Hodgson, a former Conservative parliamentary candidate," has appeared in virtually every story about the Corporation high-flyer, who started off in 1970 as an education radio producer and within 15 years had risen to become Secretary of the BBC.

Following yet further promotion late last year, and with Labour politicians anxious to prove that the BBC has been tamed by the Government, it has even been suggested mischievously that she is Mrs Thatcher's Trojan Horse within Broadcasting House. Not only is it untrue — she is not and, astonishingly, never has been a member of

the Conservative party — but it hurts.

"When I became Deputy Secretary in 1982 some of the papers ran shock, horror stories about 'top Tory in the BBC'. It has certainly been, in publicity terms, a difficulty for me. But if anybody thought I was not totally professional and impartial in the way I

'Because of the way it is funded, the BBC can take risks'

carried out my job, I don't think I would have continued to hold it."

Last autumn she was put in charge of arguably the most important backroom team ever assembled by the BBC. Her new title, head of the policy and planning unit, is, she admits, "awful". But the way the unit carries out its tasks and functions could be crucial to the fast-changing Corporation as it faces the broadcasting revolution.

In a sense the unit is a think-tank, troubleshooter and cry-

stal ball gazer rolled into one, although that is not exactly the way she would put it: "What the unit is doing is bringing together people with editorial, research and political experience and nous, backed up with a great deal of professionalism... and that resource is being plugged right into day-to-day management."

A quick taste of its work finds John Wilson, controller of editorial policy, not only organizing the Corporation's response to the unexpected government injunction against *My Country, Right or Wrong*, but also preparing an updated news and current affairs index, which acts as a policy "bible" for journalists.

Margaret Douglas, the chief political adviser, who is responsible for matters including political balance and bias, is currently preparing the BBC evidence to be put before the House of Commons home affairs select committee's planned inquiry into the future pattern of broadcasting. Chris Irwin, who joined the unit this week, will be looking ahead to see how develop-



Patricia Hodgson: trying to assess the BBC's role in the imminent broadcasting revolution

ments in British broadcasting, like a new fifth channel, are likely to affect the BBC.

Meanwhile Hodgson is looking at sponsorship, the changes which would be needed to the BBC charter, and the framework to prepare for the boom in independent producers, as well as ensuring that work is carried out in response to needs identified by Michael Checkland, John Birt and the powerful BBC board of management.

In a nutshell, the unit aims to spot not only the problems

but also the opportunities available to the BBC, to suggest the effect of changes in government policy and broadcasting, and prepare management in advance.

"If we are involved day to day in briefing on editorial problems, in being aware of what is coming in to Mike Checkland's in-tray, in what he is having to grapple with, at the same time as we are looking ahead, we hope the sort of assessments we make will be realistic, practical and helpful to management."

The Corporation, she feels, is emerging with a new confidence and beginning to see where it might fit into the new broadcasting world. Although there will be more competition and extra channels, she believes the BBC will carve out a special place, based on the range of excellence of its programmes.

"And because of the way it is funded — by licence fee — it can take risks. It can afford to make programmes for minorities and develop programmes that challenge people."

Advertising & Communications Co-ordinator

Kuwait Petroleum (Great Britain) Limited, the wholly owned subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, recently acquired over 1,300 service station outlets in the UK. The company is actively developing this retail network and is expanding the sales of petroleum fuels and lubricants in the commercial market segment under its new Q8 brand. To assist in the pursuit of this objective it wishes to recruit an Advertising and Communications Co-ordinator.

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Shift and weekend working is involved. One of the two posts requires fluency in both Welsh and English.

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Appointments Unit, BBC Wales, Llandaff, Cardiff, CF5 2YQ.

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Continued on next page

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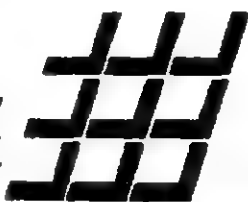
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Work alongside 3 Account Execs handling the clients in media/marketing. Balance this private business for the Board Director, Young Houseman Smith Co. WP 5 wpm. Interest in media ideal. 24-47

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CREATIVE & MEDIA
APPOINTMENTS

Continued from page 26

SALES &
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Fast growing international fresh food group of private companies based in North-West England, seek to appoint high calibre experienced sales and marketing operator to head up UK division.

Current top level key account experience essential, coupled with recent success in new product introduction in UK grocery trade. Appropriate package tailored to suit right candidate, including career progression to wider responsibilities in group.

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required for new monthly trade publication in the SECURITY MARKET.

The Editor will already have knowledge of the security or electronics industry and be capable of running a monthly journal from all aspects with skill and style.

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Senior secretary/PA with fluent French, Spanish and a knowledge of Italian is sought by this young, dynamic Director to assist in all aspects of his work. Professionalism and commitment essential in this exciting, fast moving environment. Skills 100/50 + WP.

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Salary: c.£12,000 pa

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Have you the experience and characteristics appropriate to any of these positions? Please apply by sending a handwritten letter (specifying the post you are interested in) and full cv to Margaret McKinley, Personnel Team, London Docklands Development Corporation, West India House, Millwall Dock, London E14 9TJ.

We will review applications on Friday, 15 January 1988.
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MERRYWEATHER

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International Wrought Copper Council
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Age: Mid 20's

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Royal Institute of British Architects

PA/SECRETARY TO MARKETING DIRECTOR

The RIBA requires a PA/Secretary for their Marketing Director; this is a new position offering considerable challenge and responsibility, supporting the Director on a wide range of activities. Apart from first class administrative and secretarial skills, the successful applicant must be self-motivated, be used to working on their own initiative and be able to communicate with all levels of the public and with the members of staff of the RIBA. The successful applicant must be adept at taking and circulating minutes.

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Please write enclosing full cv to the Personnel Officer, the RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1N 4AD. Tel: 01-580 5533 Ext 4126. Closing date Thursday 14 January.

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This prestigious Private Hospital now has the above vacancy reporting to the Executive Director.

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This is an excellent career move for a well qualified secretary wishing to work at senior level in private health care. Medical experience is not a requirement.

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For further information please telephone Mrs Joyce Harrison, Personnel Assistant on: 01-386 5959 ext 2710

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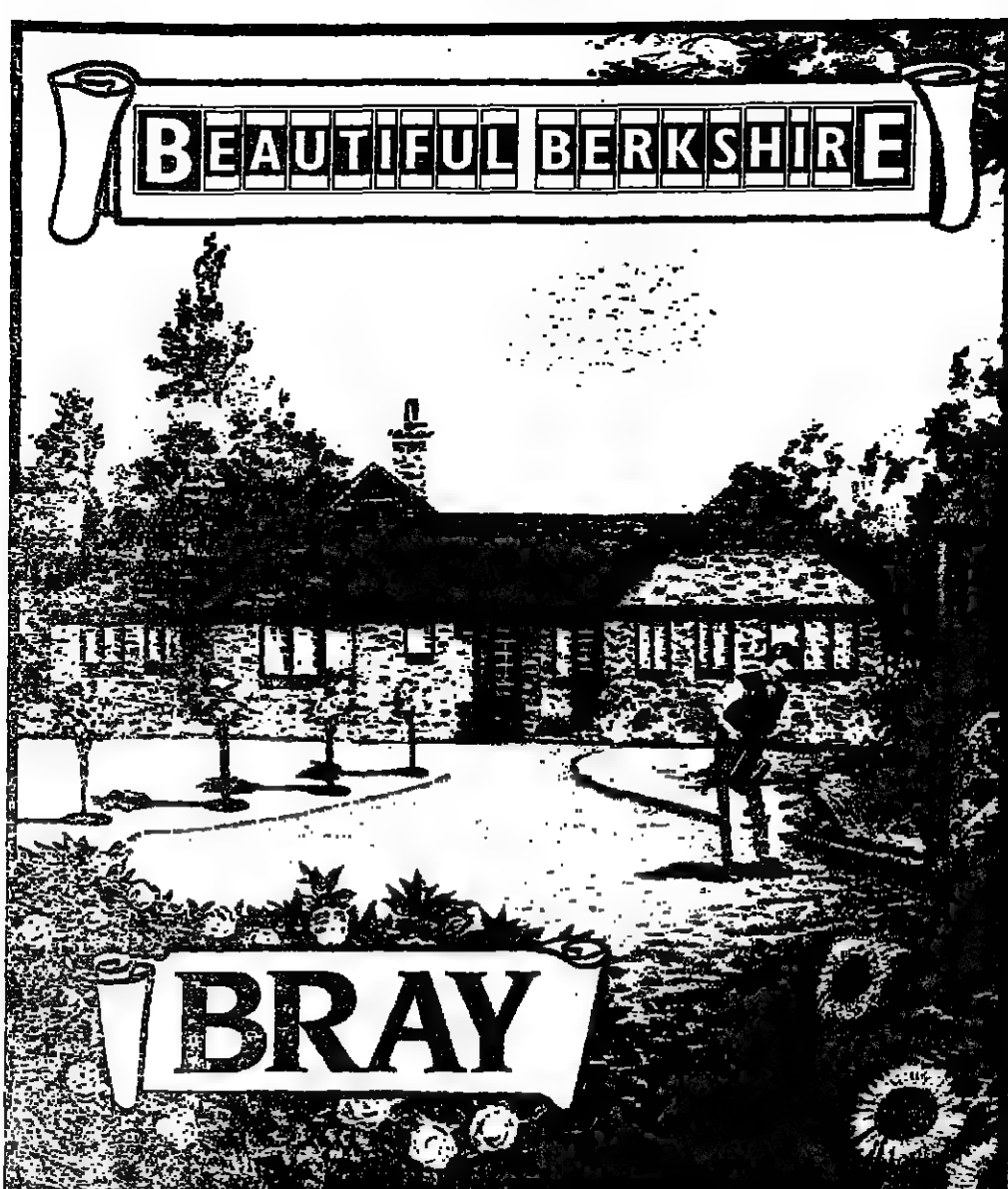
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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY



Green Belt style: The Dean, one of the five-bedroom executive homes being built at Burnham Beeches, Buckinghamshire

Fierce fighting over the fields

House-builders in the South-East face a continuing battle to find suitable sites, particularly in the pleasant country areas, because of opposition from local councils and residents who understandably do not want their environments spoiled. The builders believe there is need and demand for more houses than at present allowed for in structure plans, while most councils feel there is ample - if not too much - provision.

Charles Church, chairman of Charles Church Developments, at Camberley, Surrey, gives a warning in his annual report that county councils in the South-East are proposing reduced allocations of residential building land up to the year 2001. He says: "The net result will be insufficient homes for the children of the very people who advocate restraint, which will mean those children having to move outside of the area where they have grown up and have family ties." He promises efforts to ensure his company obtains its fair share of approved growth.

Berkeley Homes, which, like Charles Church, is known for its executive homes with "kerb appeal", readily enters Green Belt areas and fights planning authorities for consent. In Marlow, Buckinghamshire, Berkeley Homes tried for a 22-acre site on a hill, which its chairman Peter Francis described as a vacant field surrounded by houses. Although the site was not in the Green Belt, the matter was fought on Green Belt issues and turned down.

The company has been luckier with two sites within the Green Belt, and in both cases has achieved planning gains. In the Surrey village of Betchworth, the grand Betchworth House has been restored from the proceeds of land sold at Home Farm, where four large houses are being built, and at the Walled Garden, where the company has built some smaller terrace houses. At Home Farm, the houses, each with grounds of about a third of an acre, have been set in

years as there were difficulties from the owner and South Buckinghamshire District Council. It was supported by the corporation and eventually received approval without a public inquiry.

The site had included a club and a swimming pool, popular with film people from Pinewood Studios a few years ago, but the area had deteriorated and was more recently used as a fun fair and market. There were established uses that could be revived, and that prospect made the concept of up-market housing more attractive.

Fewer than eight acres of the site is for building, and every one of the 11 houses is in three-quarters of an acre. The remainder is paddock, and an interesting feature is that four of the houses have their own adjoining paddock of one acre. The remainder could also have a paddock, if required, an important consideration as the Beches provide fine riding.

The first of the houses have been released and the development should be completed in the summer. The houses, in five styles, are built of stock brick, and have five bedrooms, three reception rooms and a study. The prices are around £435,000 for a house with a paddock, and £375,000-£385,000 for the other type. The joint agents are Rafferty Buckland and Washbourne & Co, both of Beaconsfield.

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

the land's natural contours to help them to blend into their surroundings.

The sale also included a large and derelict barn dating from the 17th century, now converted into two houses. The work involved the total dismantling of the building, every timber being carefully numbered before re-assembly. The main beams are intact, but some new oak was needed to replace rotten wood, and this has all had an ageing treatment to give it a sculptured grain.

One of Berkeley Homes' present projects is in the heart of Burnham Beeches, 500 acres of protected Green Belt woodland in Buckinghamshire, owned by the City of London Corporation. The company negotiated to build on the 17-acre site for more than two

Half a million for the home of a marquess

Bayham Palace is an unusual house with an exotic name, situated on the old Bayham Abbey estate at Lambeth, near Tunbridge Wells, Kent. The 19th-century Grade II* listed church was constructed of locally quarried sandstone by the 3rd Marquess of Camden, whose ancestor Sir John Pratt, father of the 1st Marquess, had purchased the estate in 1714. It was bought five years ago by the present owner, who has converted and modernised it into a spacious country house. The house stands in five acres, with fishing rights on the River Teise, which forms the southern boundary. It has a sitting room, a dining room, a master bedroom and three further bedrooms, a minuscule gallery, a billiard room and a sun room. Hampton & Sons, with Wood & Picher, are asking for offers around £500,000.

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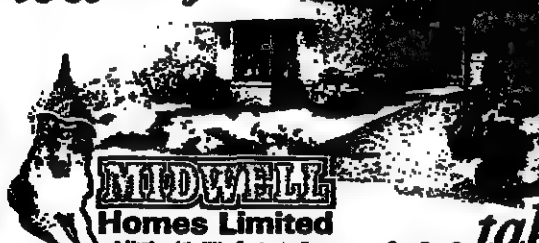
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Culture-shock and shell-shock in the Cup

Tin hats on parade for the war game



FA CUP

Plough Lane on Saturday will not be as much of a culture-shock for Ron Atkinson as some might imagine. One tends to think of the former Manchester United manager in terms of Italian suits, Havana cigars and the Bernabeu Stadium and to forget the time when it was Burton suits, Spanish cigarettos and Kettering Stadium.

The last occasion on which Atkinson went to Wimbledon in a competitive capacity was as player-manager of Kettering Town for a Southern League match in the early Seventies. The public remember him for his million-pound buys and sales and FA triumphs but have long forgotten, if they ever knew, how he took Cambridge United into the second division "for three pence" — or £15,000 in most people's currency.

Wimbledon's football probably has not changed that much in all those years and Atkinson will give it the same respect he did last time. It is certainly not the setting he would have chosen to re-establish contact with the first division. "I had a premonition we would come out of the hat opposite Wimbledon," he said. "Everybody knows we've drawn the short straw. It's the tie nobody wanted — away from home against an in-form first division team with little chance of financial compensation. Yet, funny enough, certain experiences we're finding in the second division might stand us in good stead."

Atkinson is clearly not particularly smitten by the different quality of football he has had to endure since taking up his new appointment with West Bromwich Albion three months ago. There are too many budding Wimbledoners for his liking in the second division but so far they do not seem to have caused Albion too much trouble. They tuned up nicely for the shelling they can expect to receive on Saturday with a 1-0 win last week against Plymouth Argyle, one of the devotees of the long-ball game.

"Plymouth put us under as much pressure as we've been placed all



A sense of humour meets a vote of confidence: Atkinson and Lucas, Albion manager and chairman, in the manager's office

season but I know that Wimbledon are the best in the country at their sort of game. I've got a pretty good picture of what it will be like, so I've ordered the tin helmets and trench coats. It's a very difficult style to play against and very disruptive for teams playing what I call pattern football. It's also a bit daunting for clubs who usually play in palatial stadiums. My lot should be all right. They think our training ground is Wembley Stadium."

Atkinson takes heart from the number of victories scored by second division clubs against first division ones in Littlewoods Cup ties this season and from the knowledge that, in the words of one of his fellow television pundits, football, particularly cup football, can be a "funny old game," often literally.

Laughter during tense moment

Atkinson remembers a tie three seasons ago when United, as Cup holders, lost at Bournemouth with two goals in a minute, seconds after Jimmy Magregor, his physiotherapist, lamented the fact that they could do without a replay the following week.

If he reluctantly appreciated the irony of that remark he could not

stop himself from laughing at a tense moment in a sixth-round tie against Nottingham Forest in happier days at the Hawthorns. "We were leading Forest with five minutes to go when someone played a crossfield pass and Willie Johnston, right in front of the dugouts and a crowd of 40,000 people, trapped the ball with his backside. The tension was such that I leapt off the bench to give him a volley for being so casual. But before I had a chance Cloughie had already gone to the touchline and given my own player a blast."

Atkinson has needed to retain his sense of humour. When he rejoined Albion, whom he forsook seven years ago for the ultimate job in British football at Old Trafford, they were bottom of the table. He told Sid Lucas, the chairman, that after all the managers they had had in the intervening years he had not come back to drain the club still further of its finances.

"I told them we'd see how it goes and if it didn't work out I'd leave," he said. After a short revival they have slumped again but last week, after Albion's fourth consecutive defeat, Lucas offered Atkinson a new two-year contract which he has accepted. Talk about votes of confidence," Atkinson said.

The team's progress of late has been restricted by injuries, most damagingly to both his centre backs,

Bennett (whom he knew as an apprentice) and Dyson. It has forced Atkinson into the transfer market, where last week he bought Stacey Norton from Luton Town for £100,000. "It's rather more than I wanted to spend but that's what you have to pay these days," he said. It all sounds uncommonly thrifty for a man who earned an entirely different reputation at Old Trafford when he coolly forked out £2 million to spirit away Bryan Robson and Remi Moses from the Hawthorns seven years ago.

Bank manager more than tailor

Yet however sensibly he cuts his cloth, Atkinson will always be more of a bank manager than a tailor. It must have been hard for him to settle for the bottom of the second division after six rewarding years with Manchester United. Only last summer another leading club slipped through his fingers when, after signing a two-year contract worth £150,000 a year with Athletic Madrid, the president died before the deal could be approved.

"Albion is one of the few clubs in this country that I would want to manage," he said. "It still has the feel of a big club and everyone here,

including Colin Addison, Stuart Pearson and Nobby Stiles, my coaches, is geared to lifting it back to the top flight. I think the supporters have appreciated what they once had and there is now a feeling of enormous goodwill again towards the club. If when I go, I can leave it in the same healthy state in which I left it last time, then I'll be satisfied."

In one way Atkinson and Albion are well matched. Atkinson is one of the FA Cup's most successful post-war managers with a record of two victorious finals, against Brighton and Everton, and a semi-final defeat while with Albion against Ipswich Town. Albion, for their part, are one of the FA Cup's most successful teams, having appeared in 19 semi-finals, second only to Everton, whom they have surpassed with five victories in Wembley finals.

That trend, as far as Albion are concerned, has been reversed in recent years when they have made a habit of leaving at the first exit in both FA Cup and League Cup competitions. Atkinson probably never thought he would say it about a competition he regards as the most exciting in the world but he would happily suffer defeat in the anonymous surroundings of Plough Lane in exchange for just six more League points.

Clive White

Town rebuilding from the rubble

The spectre of the club's biggest defeat in its 80-year history will haunt Huddersfield Town when they take on Manchester City at Leeds Road in the third round of the FA Cup on Saturday but Malcolm Macdonald, the manager of the side at the bottom of the second division, sees the game as an opportunity for his team to put their problems behind them.

After the 10-1 drubbing at Maine Road almost two months ago, Huddersfield showed signs of pulling away from the lower reaches, only to sink again with one point from their holiday programme.

Macdonald, appointed 12 weeks ago after two years out of the game, is only too aware of the long-term problems facing the club but views the match optimistically. "I don't think that League form will have any relevance. The players will remember what happened at their place only too vividly and that should act as a spur; but both sides play football and it should be one hell of a game. Although we have had a bad run, so have City, and this is a good opportunity for us to wipe the slate clean and build some confidence from a decent showing in the Cup."

"There is a lot of good in our game but when we make mistakes they are horrendous and we get punished for them. Even at Maine Road we had two or three chances to score before their first one went in and after that it was all one way. We are not going to cure our ills overnight, it will take some time to sort them out. What we need is consistency and a belief in ourselves and a good result against Manchester could go a long way towards providing it."

Macdonald's problems have been compounded by a transfer request from Andy May, the midfielder player bought from Manchester City for £36,000 during the summer, and the imminent suspension of Ian Banks, the captain, and Peter Ward — although all three will be available for the Cup tie.

Of the team's League form, he said: "We seem to have gone back to what it was like when I came here in October. They know I am looking for men who will hold up their hands and say 'I'm here to give

90 minutes' and if they don't I shall have to look elsewhere. We have no time to mess about."

He is trying to buy players to strengthen the squad but, as he says, "nobody's very keen to come to a club at the bottom of the table" and Steve Wallford, who was with them on loan, refused the opportunity to make the move permanent. But the former Newcastle, Arsenal and Fulham goalscorer is committed to the Huddersfield cause and has moved into a house on the edge of the Pennines.

A big problem the club have had to overcome has been their failure to live alongside their near neighbours, Leeds United, who have commanded most of the attention in the last 20 years. Most of the Huddersfield supporters cast their minds back to the great



Town planner Macdonald side of the 1920s and 1930s, when they won the first division title three times and the Cup in 1922 and were finalists on three other occasions.

Met Machin, the City manager, believes that the earlier result could work against his team. "They are the most difficult side we could play because of what happened here," he says. "They could have scored first and this is a one-off situation. You can't guarantee anything and they have showed they can play with some good results after we beat them."

City will be without Paul Stewart, one of the three players who scored a treble in the earlier game, because of suspension and are equally anxious to expunge the memory of poor form which has seen them slip to tenth in the table.

Martin Searby

Human Rights Law Report

Lawyers association guilty of breach in procedure for restoration to roll

H v Belgium (Case No 1/1986/99/147)

Before Judge R. Ryssdal, President and Judges J. Cremona, Thor Vilhjelmsson, G. Lagergren, G. Golucci, F. Matscher, J. Pinheiro Farinha, L.-E. Pettit, B. Walsh, Sir Vincent Evans, R. Macdonald, C. Russo, R. Bernhardt, J. Gering, A. Spielmann, J. de Meyer, J.A. Carrillo Salcedo and N. Valicos Registrars M. A. Eissen (Judgment November 30)

The European Court of Human Rights held, by 12 votes to 6, that there had been a breach of article 6(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights by Belgium in that procedure for restoration to the Bar roll of an *avocat* who had been struck off did not comply with the guarantees provided in article 6(1).

Article 6(1) of the Convention stipulates that "in the determination of his civil rights and obligations... everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law."

"Judgment shall be pronounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interests of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice."

In 1957, at the end of his pupillage, H was entered on the Antwerp Bar roll and took chambers.

Six years later, the Bar Council (Conseil de l'Ordre des Avocats) struck him off the roll, having satisfied itself that he had wrongly persuaded a client

that the client risked arrest if he did not immediately pay him a specified sum. The Brussels Council of Appeal affirmed the decision to strike him off and the Court of Cassation dismissed H's appeal on points of law.

Criminal proceedings against H in 1964 (for fraud and unlawfully holding himself out as an *avocat*) and in 1977 (for forgery and fraudulent conversion) ended in acquittals in 1968 and 1979 respectively.

In 1970, H set up as a legal and tax adviser. His first two applications for restoration to the roll — the first in 1980, the second in 1981 — were unsuccessful, on each occasion the Bar Council, against whose decision no appeal lay, held that although more than ten years had elapsed since the disbarment, there was no exceptional circumstance such as would justify cancelling the sanction (article 471 of the Judicial Code).

Having attempted unsuccessfully to achieve a friendly settlement, the European Commission of Human Rights drew up a report on October 8, 1985 establishing the facts and in which it expressed the opinion by ten votes to two that the applicant had not been able to have his case heard by a tribunal within the meaning of that provision.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held: I Alleged violation of article 6(1) A Existence of a dispute over a right

The Court referred to the principles adopted in its case-law and ascertained whether the right claimed by the applicant existed in Belgium. To that end, it considered the nature of

justifying subsequent readmission.

It noted that article 471 of the Judicial Code permitted an *avocat* who had been struck off to seek readmission after "ten years have elapsed from the date on which the decision to strike off became final and (if) exceptional circumstances warrant it".

The second of those conditions, unlike the first one, was capable of being interpreted and applied in a wide variety of ways, and previous Bar Council decisions did not clarify the issue, as they were few in number, inaccessible to the public and the reasoning given in them was inexplicit.

The applicant could arguably maintain that in Belgium law he had the right to practise the profession of *avocat* again, since he had satisfied the conditions prescribed in article 471. Although the Bar Council had some discretion, it therefore had to determine a *contentieux* (dispute) concerning a right asserted by H.

B Whether the dispute was civil The Court did not consider that it had to give an abstract definition of the concept of "civil rights and obligations". It analysed the special characteristics of the profession of *avocat* in Belgium, since the disputed right was indisputably bound up with that profession. This analysis disclosed features of public law.

The Belgian State itself had laid down the way in which the Bar should be organized and the conditions attaching to the practice of the profession of *avocat* (access, rights, duties and so on). That intervention by the State by means of statute or delegated legislation could not, however, suffice to establish that the right in issue did not have a civil character.

The contribution of *avocats* to

the administration of justice involved them in the operation of a public service. As regards some of its functions, the Bar was in a sense part of the judicial system.

However, there was no concomitant joint or individual subordination to the country's courts, and the Bar had complete responsibility for its roll and for discipline. Under the Judicial Code, which entrusted the Court of Cassation's case-law on the subject, the Bar Council drew up the roll, and no appeal lay from its decisions in that matter.

While the foregoing two factors did not, therefore, suffice to establish that article 6 was inapplicable, several considerations weighed in favour of the opposite conclusion.

The profession of *avocat* had traditionally been treated as one of the independent professions. An *avocat* was free to practise or not. Unless officially assigned to a case by the court, he had clients who chose him voluntarily and directly. He fixed his fee himself. The instructions to act which bound him to his client constituted a private-law relationship.

The chambers and clientele of an *avocat* constituted property interests and as such came within the ambit of the right of property.

Avocats performed numerous important duties out of court (acting as advisers, conciliators and even arbitrators) which often had no connection with judicial proceedings.

The Court concluded that the various aspects of the profession of *avocat* in Belgium, taken together, established the character of a civil right within the meaning of article 6(1), which was thus applicable.

C Compliance with article 6(1) As no appeal lay against the

decisions of the Bar Council, the Court ascertained whether H had enjoyed the right to a fair hearing before the Council. It was not disputed in the instant case that the Council was an institution "established by law" and that it heard the case "within a reasonable time".

The Bar Council performed many functions — administrative, regulatory, adjudicative, advisory and disciplinary. In the Court's view, that kind of plurality of powers could not in itself preclude an institution from being a "tribunal" in respect of some of them.

Moreover, the Bar Council, when taking its decision on the application for readmission made by the applicant, was performing a judicial function further to its disciplinary functions. It took account of the case on occasions that were separated by a considerable lapse of time (in 1963 and then in 1979-81) and in different contexts (disbarment and application for readmission).

There could be no question about the independence of the members of the Bar Council: they were elected by their peers and were answerable only to their own consciences.

Similarly, the Court saw nothing in the evidence before it to give it any reason to doubt their personal impartiality. It did not consider it necessary to express a view on the Council's structural impartiality.

As regards the fairness of the proceedings, H was able to have the assistance of a lawyer to represent him and was able to appear in person when his two applications for readmission were considered; he also filed pleadings in support of his second application.

Nonetheless, the relevant procedure of the Bar Council of Antwerp was open to criticism

in two respects.

In the first place, it was very difficult for the applicant to adduce appropriate evidence of the "exceptional circumstances" which, in law, have brought about his restoration to the roll and, more generally, to argue his case with the requisite effectiveness.

In particular, neither the applicable provisions nor the previous Bar Council decision gave any indication of what could amount to "exceptional circumstances". At the same time, he had cause to fear that there was some risk of being dealt with arbitrarily, especially as there was no provision allowing him a right of challenge and as the Bar Council did not have any internal rules of procedure.

The procedural safeguards thus appeared unduly limited. Their inadequacy was of especial importance in view of the seriousness of what was at stake when a disbarred *avocat* sought restoration to the roll and the imprecise nature of the statutory concept of "exceptional circumstances".

Furthermore, that very lack of precision made it all the more necessary for the applicant to give sufficient reasons for the two impugned decisions on the issue in question. Yet in the event the decisions merely noted that there were no such circumstances, without explaining why the circumstances relied on by the applicant were not to be regarded as exceptional.

As to whether the proceedings were public, the Judicial Code provided that in some circumstances decisions of the Bar Council in disciplinary matters might be given in public and that proceedings before disciplinary appeals boards might be held in public; but it was silent in respect of restoration to the roll. In the instant case, H's

applications were not heard in public, nor were the decisions of the Bar Council "pronounced" in public.

Unless cured at a later stage of the procedure, such a defect could deprive the person concerned of one of the safeguards set forth in the first sentence of article 6 paragraph 1 of the Convention.

The grounds for H's applications related directly to the practice of the profession of *avocat*, which might conceivably raise questions coming within the exceptions allowed for in article 6(1). However, the material before the Court did not suffice to show that the circumstances were such as to warrant the hearings not being held in public.

The rule requiring a public hearing, as embodied in article 6(1) could also yield in certain circumstances to the will of the person concerned. Admittedly, the nature of some of the rights safeguarded by the Convention was such as to exclude a waiver of the entitlement to exercise them, but the same could not be said of certain other rights.

Thus neither the letter nor the spirit of article 6(1) prevented an *avocat* from waiving of his own free will and in an unequivocal manner, the entitlement to have his case heard in public, conducting disciplinary proceedings of that kind in private did not contravene the convention.

The evidence adduced did not establish that H intended to waive his right to a public hearing. He could not be deemed for not having demanded to exercise a right which was not afforded him by the practice of the Belgian Bars and that he had little prospect of securing.

As to the fact that H wished to remain anonymous in the proceedings before the Convention institutions, it was not

decisive in this context, as those proceedings were quite different both in their purpose and in their nature and scope.

In short, the Bar Council did not in the instant case satisfy the requirements of article 6(1), and there was therefore a breach of that provision.

II Application of article 50 The applicant claimed just satisfaction in respect of prejudice sustained and of costs and expenses.

A Prejudice As regards pecuniary damage, the evidence did not establish a causal link between the breach of the Convention and any deterioration in H's financial position.

On the other hand, the applicant had suffered non-pecuniary damage, in respect of which the Court awarded him 250,000 Belgian francs on an equitable basis.

B Costs and expenses In the instant case, only the costs and fees relating to the proceedings before the European Commission and the Court fell to be taken into account. The Court assessed legal costs and travel and subsistence expenses at 100,000 Belgian francs.

For those reasons the court held

1 By twelve votes to six, Judges Golucci, Matscher, Sir Vincent Evans, Bernhardt, Gering and Pinheiro Farinha dissenting, that article 6(1) applied in this case and that this article had been violated

2 By sixteen votes to two, Judges Pinheiro Farinha and de Meyer dissenting, that Belgium pay H the sum of 250,000 Belgian francs in respect of non-pecuniary damages

3 Unanimously, that Belgium reimburse H 100,000 Belgian francs in respect of costs and expenses.

Law Report January 6 1988

Repainting exterior of listed building capable of being an alteration

Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council v Secretary of State for the Environment and Others

Before Mr Justice Mann [Judgment December 21]

Painting the exterior of a listed building in such a manner that its character as a building of special architectural and historic interest was affected was capable of requiring listed building consent since repainting was capable of being an alteration.

Mr Justice Mann so held in the Queen's Bench Division in remitting the appeal under section 2-4(1) of the Town and Country Act 1971 to the Secretary of State for the Environment, the first respondent, with a direction that the secretary of state's decision of February 15, 1987 whereby he determined

that a listed building enforcement notice issued by the Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council, the appellant, on November 20, 1984, and served on Mrs Clive Butcher and Mrs Grace Butcher, the second, third and fourth respondents and owners 2 and 2A Clarence Crescent, Windsor, was null and void.

Section 55 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 provides: "(1) ... if a person executes or causes to be executed any works for the demolition of a listed building or for its alteration or extension in any manner which would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest, and the works are not authorized ... he shall be guilty of an offence."

Mr John Howell for the

council; Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC and Mr Paul Stinchcombe for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE MANN said that the listed building enforcement notice was served in the exercise of powers conferred by section 96(1) of the 1971 Act. It asserted that there had been a contravention of section 55(1) of the Act specified as:

"Painting the exterior of the building in colours of deep pink with black detailing on, *inter alia*, pillars, string course, window sills, window frames, the base area of the main wall on the front elevation and the front porch."

Upon appeal under section 97(1) of the 1971 Act by the second, third and fourth respondents the secretary of state decided, forming a different

view from that of his inspector:

"A decision in this case turns on whether works have been carried out which constitute an alteration to a listed building in a way which affects its character. There are occasions when the painting of the facade of a listed building is undoubtedly an alteration which affects its character because it obliterates features of interest, eg brickwork, timbering or lettering or other details which are architecturally or historically important."

"In such cases, consent is, in the opinion of the secretary of state, needed. In the present case ... the facade of the building was already painted and the action of repainting cannot therefore be said to have constituted works of alteration."

For that reason the enforcement notice was null and void.

His Lordship said that the case was concerned with section 55(1) of the 1971 Act. It was within a fasciculus of sections headed "Additional control in special cases". Control in ordinary cases was dealt with in earlier sections and rested upon the requirement to obtain planning permission for development (section 23(1)).

"Development" was defined in wide terms and included "building ... operations". That phrase included "operations normally undertaken by a person carrying on business as a builder" (section 290(1)).

His Lordship said that he would regard the painting or repainting of a building as being an operation normally under-

taken by a person carrying on business as a builder. Accordingly it would constitute "development".

It was clear that "painting" and "repainting" were, if they effected the external appearance of a building, within the ambit of ordinary planning control.

His Lordship turned to section 55(1) and said that the debate was whether the repainting fell within its provisions. The council submitted that it did and that the purpose of the subsection was the protection of the heritage afforded by the built environment and that the purpose would be promoted by a wide construction of the provisions. It would be absurd if painting was subject to control but repainting was not.

The secretary of state argued

that construing section 55(1) involved two considerations: first, the right of the built-up environment and second, the right of an owner to deal with his property.

As the court was dealing with the creation of a criminal offence section 55(1) should be strictly construed. Painting could be regarded as an alteration in that it involved a change to the physical fabric of the building whereas the department's view was that repainting did not.

His Lordship said that having regard to the possible meaning in ordinary language of the word "alteration" and having regard to the purpose of the subsection, he was justified in concluding that repainting was capable of being an alteration.

In any case the critical ques-

tion would be whether the repainting affected the character of the building as a building of special architectural or historic interest as here it did.

Little imagination was required to identify cases where repainting in unsuitable colours of, for example, Georgian stucco would produce a most unfortunate aesthetic result. Parliament could not have intended such activities to be immune from listed building enforcement control.

There was no sensible distinction to be drawn between painting and repainting.

The matter was remitted to the secretary of state with a direction to dismiss the appeal.

Solicitors: Mr David Lunn, Maidenhead; Treasury Solicitor.

Novel lane system for Crew Search finals will give yachting added television appeal

Future successes heave into view

By Barry Pickthall

The Royal Yachting Association's nationwide Crew Search for new talent to spearhead Britain's continued success in the world of off-shore and ocean racing became a central topic at the preview to the London Boat Show at Earl's Court yesterday when Bill Edgerton, the RYA's off-shore coach, unveiled plans to turn the finals of this scheme into a major television promotion for the sport.

The Crew Search scheme, sponsored jointly by *The Times* and James Capel, the investment house, has already attracted more than 500 applicants for the 10 regional trials, which start in Torquay in April.

However, the RYA has agreed to test a novel idea conceived by

Alan Green, the secretary of the Royal Ocean Racing Club, to examine the abilities of the 20 finalist crews over a specific course that will also provide an exciting spectacle suitable for television coverage.

Yacht racing is often ignored because it is perceived as a non-spectacular sport. Yachts race off across the horizon and the finishing order remains invisible close to the eventual winners, who are judged by a handicapping formula based on their size and elapsed time.

In the Crew Search finals however, to be staged in The Solent in October, crews representing the 10 regions and classes will be racing identical Westerner cruises over short windward-leeward courses

with each boat having its own marks to round.

"The great advantage of this lane system is that racing will not become a procession at the marks, making it much easier to make a qualitative assessment of crew work as well as provide very close racing for spectators and TV," Edgerton explained yesterday.

The cat and thrust of the race is maintained and crews will be called upon to make a series of compulsory manoeuvres during each leg of the course, testing the ability not just of deck hands but navigators and tacticians, who must judge wind and tide to get their yachts in the best positions for each change of tack.

"The idea has a great deal of promise which could provide a suitable format for television," Edgerton said.

The concept is bound to be raised at an international conference in London on January 14 organised by the International Yacht Racing Union, which has called once organisers, sponsors and the media together to discuss ways of raising the profile of this sport.

Crew Search is open to both men and women aged between 18 and 35 who already have some racing experience and aspire towards the top levels of the sport. Further details are available from the Royal Yachting Association, the London International Boat Show, which opens today and continues until January 17.



All aboard for Crew Search: From left, Bill Edgerton, off-shore coach of the Royal Yachting Association, and champion skippers Lawrie Smith, Eddie Warden Owsa, Titch Blashford and Tim Law at the Boat Show (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

How to enter

APPLICATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (H) _____

(H) _____

AGE _____

OCCUPATION _____

REGION _____

SAILING EXPERIENCE _____

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

The event organizers and sponsors shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however caused to the competitor, as a result of taking part in the event or events.

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

Send your entry to

The Times/James Capel Crewsearch

Sports Desk

The Times

1 Pennington Street

London E1 9XN

Epidemic of mud fever hits hunting

By Andrew Morgan

Outbreaks of mud fever and other skin disorders in hunting horses have reached their highest levels in 25 years, as a result of the prolonged wet weather.

Horses have been pulled out of meets of the East Midlands hunts of Cottesmore, Quorn, Belvoir and Fenner, being diagnosed as suffering from the ailment, which has the symptoms of chafing and cracked skin.

The Gloucestershire hunts of Beaufort and Avonvale have also reported an increased number of horses with mud fever and cracked skin. The latter is blamed on a lack of sunshine in summer to kill off skin bacteria and to build up vitamin D, to resist infection.

Nearly half of the 20 horses that Tom Barlow looks after for the Belvoir and South Norths hunts have contracted the ailment this year. "I have been involved with hunts for over 40 years and I have seen nothing like it," he said.

The area of the horse affected centres on the lower part of the hind leg and hoof, more so on the hind legs, as well as the belly. The illness stems from the wet and sweat of up to three hours in the field, causing cracking, as well as the heat and moisture in the stables after the horses arrive back. White-legged animals are affected more than coloured.

Barlow added: "The wet weather means the horses need constant cleaning. We have used warm and cold water and varied the brushes but some are still breaking out in sores a few days later. I think hair-dryers may be one solution but some horses would probably still suffer."

Treatment consists of creams and lotions, as well as antibiotics, but these are used sparingly in case the horse, needing treatment for a more serious ailment, has developed an immunity.

Mike Seckington, a veterinary surgeon in Charnham, Leicestershire, said: "This year is the worst I have seen in my 25-year career, with cases up 100 per cent. It started in October and it will take a period of much drier weather, even with much lower temperatures, before the situation improves."

John Owen, a veterinary surgeon treating horses in both the Beaufort and Avonvale hunts, said he had prescribed large amounts of mud fever cream. "Some owners are avoiding spotty horses in the field, thinking they might have ringworm. In fact, these skin conditions are not infectious at all."

John MacKenzie-Grieve, secretary of the Beaufort Hunt, added: "My own horse suffered slightly from mud fever but not sufficiently to miss a meet. If a summer is torrential, there is always a chance of skin disorders."

FOOTBALL: FAREWELL TO THE MAN WHO GUIDED CLUB THROUGH FIRE TRAGEDY

Bradford's chairman resigns

By Martin Seabury

Stafford Hegginbotham, who guided Bradford City through the aftermath of English football's worst tragedy, in 1985, yesterday resigned as chairman because of ill health.

Hegginbotham, aged 54, has a weak heart and has been told he requires a transplant. A coronary attack last May has curtailed his activities at the club this season. He has sold his 75,000 shares to his fellow directors, Jack Torndoff, who takes over as chairman, Terry Fountain and David Thompson.

"I am unable to do the job to my satisfaction and until the question of my health has

been decided I don't feel I am going to be in a position to do it as I would wish," he said yesterday. "There is nothing sinister or political about my decision. I am going totally of my own accord because I think the time is right."

His poor health forced him to give up his involvement with his toy firm and, although the former chairman would not admit it, many people feel that the horror of the fire which killed 56 people took its toll of the man who twice stepped in to save the club from bankruptcy. The effects on the city and the rest of football were far reaching and cannot fail to have affected him.

Directors head for terraces

Ron Noddes, the Crystal Palace chairman, and his directors will risk a soaking by joining their supporters in the open at Newcastle United on Saturday rather than sit in the directors' box.

Newcastle police have ruled that the Palace supporters can share the only covered stand at St James Park for the FA Cup third round tie, so Palace's directors are refusing their seats.

"We have nothing against the Newcastle club. They were quite happy for our genuine supporters to mix with their fans but the police have ridden roughshod over us," Noddes said.

Newcastle are rebuilding their ground, so there is only one covered stand in use and the capacity has been cut to 28,000. An open golf-style temporary stand, seating around 1,300, has been erected and offered to Palace.

Palace protested when they were first told of the police decision and appealed to the FA for support. The FA made the match all-ticket but Noddes believes that had a club not as big as Newcastle been involved the FA would have ordered the match to be played in a neutral ground. He also claims the decision makes nonsense of the Government's call for club membership schemes.

"The Government is demanding we introduce membership schemes in football. These schemes are supposed to be interchangeable with one club's members allowed to attend games on opposition grounds."

"We have a membership scheme. Newcastle were happy to give seats in the covered stand to our members, yet the police say 'no'. The FA has allowed the police to dictate to them."

Despite these problems, Palace expect to sell more of their ticket allocation, on sale at the ground all this week.

Forest shocked by The Shay

By Martin Seabury

Brian Clough yesterday took the Nottingham Forest first team squad to have a look at The Shay, the scene of Saturday's third-round tie with Halifax Town, to discover council workmen smothering the sodden pitch with four tons of sand.

An ironic twist was added when he was told that it has been specially imported from Nottingham to try to soak up the torrential rain that has fallen on west Yorkshire this week.

Tracked by a bevy of photographers and television camera crews, the manager was none too happy for the conditions of the ground but his players were clearly taken aback by the decayed vastness of the stadium which will only be allowed to cater for 4,000 supporters.

Peace, the Forest captain and

FA CUP

England international full back, Clough took advantage of last night's Central League fixture at Leeds to stop off for the 30-minute tour of inspection which also included the miniscule but home-dressing rooms. The Forest manager said: "It's going to be a tricky match for us. We've got an incredibly bad record in the FA Cup and we won't be expecting an easy passage."

Clough's joke about the visitors' dug-out backfired on him. He told reporters that he last sat in it 16 years ago when he came to The Shay with Brighton when the teams were in the third division. He said: "I think they've painted it since then. Then as he was talking he put his right hand on top of the dug-out — and got white paint all over it."

Webb, his fellow philosophical when he said: "If we want to win the Cup we have to come to these places and win but it won't be easy."

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Act against thugs says Havelange

Rio de Janeiro (Reuter)

Joao Havelange, the FIFA president, has urged government officials to put an end to hooliganism at football stadiums, saying referees can deter the violence on the field but never off it.

"We are concerned about the growing violence at football stadiums worldwide. But we must say referees only have the elements to control violence if it happens inside the field," the Brazilian told the *Journal do Brasil* newspaper on Monday.

"As for off-the-field hooliganism, it is up to city officials to preserve the security of the spectators. If they are not capable of doing that, they should not authorize games to be held within their jurisdictions," Havelange stated.

For the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy, Havelange said, each of the 52 matches will cost FIFA \$1.2 million (about \$660,000), adding up to total expenses of nearly \$60 million.

Archibald sets up charity game in Spain

Steve Archibald, instead of training with Blackburn Rovers yesterday, was back in Barcelona organizing an all-star charity match which was to have been at Wembley but has been switched to Spain. "I expect to get in some training while he's over there," Don Mackay, the Blackburn manager, said.

Bristol Rovers, who play their home games at Bath City ground, will return to Bristol within two years, according to Denis Durnford, their chairman.

Don Mackay, who captained North County from the fourth division to the first, has returned to Meadow Lane to take charge of the club's sports complex.

Brian Flynn, the Doncaster Rovers and former Wales midfielder, cracked a rib during last Saturday's 4-3 home defeat by Wigan Athletic and will be unavailable for at least a month.

Dick Walker, the former West Ham United centre half, has died, aged 75. He played nearly 300 League games for the club between 1934 and 1953 and was later chief scout at Tottenham.

Mika Juntunen, a Finnish international, joined Oldham's Cup squad yesterday. The mid-field player wrote to the club on the eve of Sammy McIlroy, formerly of Manchester United, and was invited over for a month's trial.

Tony Caldwell, the Bristol City forward, has joined Chester on a month's loan. The move could become permanent if he is successful.

The contract with the Western Australian Tourism Commission pays Conner an undisclosed amount to promote the Australian state in the United States. He also is to market the Australian nugget, a gold coin produced by Goldcorp, a subsidiary of the Western Australian Development Corporation.

San Diego (AP) — A contract between Dennis Conner, the San Diego skipper who led Stars and Stripes to a 4-0 victory over Australia's Kookaburra III last year, and the Western Australian Tourism Commission is making waves in Australia, where sailors are furious at being shut out of the next America's Cup regatta. Western Australian state political leaders say they are reviewing the pact in the light of recent talks by the San Diego Yacht Club.

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MOTOR RALLYING

Drivers stretched beyond the limit

From Jeremy Hart Hassi Messaoud

When details of the 1988 Paris to Dakar rally route were released, the experienced campaigners knew immediately that the good old days, when the opening Algerian stages allowed drivers to settle into a rhythm, were a thing of the past. Those that knew the region well expected the opening test to be exceptionally tough.

They were right. Yesterday's second leg took the survivors 495km further south from here to Bordj Omar Driss after organizers had been forced to extend the time limit for finishing the previous day with more than one-third of the field delayed by mechanical problems or desert sands. Of the 585 drivers who left El Oued on Monday, only 387 had arrived within the limit.

Ati Vatanen, fastest over the 540km stage, was one of the few leading drivers not to get stuck in one of the numerous sand dunes. "It was perhaps a bit too difficult," he said. "I don't know how the trucks are going to make it through."

Patrick Tambay, the former Formula One driver, had been among the day's early pace-setters with his Camel Racing Service Range Rover before falling victim to the treacherous dunes. "Everything was going fine until I came across three sand dunes," he said. "I got stuck in a crest and blocking my path. I braked and immediately found myself soundly stuck. It took us 15 minutes to dig our way clear."

Despite the incident, Tambay was fourth fastest behind



PARIS TO DAKAR

Vatanen, Pierre Larigue, the Mitsubishi driver, and his Camel team colleague, Patrick Zanardi.

Zanardi had a scare on the relaxed run down from Algiers as the first overnight camp on Sunday when the fly-wheel retaining bolts sheered some 100km from the El Oued.

More than one leading crew lost time both getting stuck and going off-route. Andrew Cowan, of Britain, and the Japanese driver, Shinzuka, took turns in helping their respective Pajeros out of the sand before taking the wrong direction towards the end of the stage. The world champion, Juha Kankkunen, also went off-route with his Peugeot 205 T16, initiated by his team colleague, Henri Pescarolo, and Camel's Malcolm Smith.

RESULTS: First stage (El Oued to Hassi Messaoud): 1. A Vatanen (Peugeot), 2. P Larigue (Mitsubishi), 3. P Zanardi (Range Rover), 4. P Tambay (Range Rover), 5. J Kankkunen (Peugeot), 6. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 7. H Pescarolo (Peugeot), 8. D Dayet (Range Rover), 9. H Pescarolo (Peugeot), 10. Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 11. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 12. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 13. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 14. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 15. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 16. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 17. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 18. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 19. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 20. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 21. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 22. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 23. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 24. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 25. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 26. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 27. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 28. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 29. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 30. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 31. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 32. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 33. S Shinzuka (Mitsubishi), 34. 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Silence after TCCB's inquest

By Alan Lee

Cricket's leading administrators yesterday questioned Mike Gatting, the England captain, on the alarming events of last month's Pakistan tour. The end of the five-hour meeting at Lord's, however, brought only a well-rehearsed silence and no verdict is expected until Friday.

Gatting appeared before the 10-man executive committee of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) to explain the circumstances which culminated in his astonishing verbal duel with the Pakistani umpire, Shakoor Rana, and the subsequent loss of a full day's play in the second Test, threatening both the conclusion of the tour and future relations between the countries.

The committee, which is chaired by Raman Subba Row and includes the individual chairmen of all the TCCB's sub-committees plus three elected delegates, also considered an extensive and detailed report from Peter Lush, the tour manager.

Gatting's conduct will undoubtedly have brought a stern reaction from some members of the executive, which includes Peter May and Colin Cowdrey, two former England captains with an off-stated distaste for dissent of any kind. The committee also wished to hear Gatting's version of various other contentious incidents during a thoroughly unsavoury series.

It is within the powers of the executive to recommend that Gatting's actions should cost him his job, or at least a heavy fine. Such a conclusion, however, would put the body at odds with its chairman, who assured the England team during his emergency visit to Pakistan that there would be no question of Gatting being removed from office.

Gatting, who is due to lead the England side off to New Zealand next week on the second stage of their winter adventures, is likely to hear today that his position is safe and that the Board's executive, while not condoning public dissent in any way, is now ready to add its weight to the growing call for a panel of international umpires. The findings of yesterday's meeting are to be circulated to all county club chairmen before they are made public.

Fast adds pressure on Imran

Lahore (Reuters) — Pakistani students threatened yesterday to go on hunger-strike to force Imran Khan, aged 35, to resume the captaincy of the national cricket team.

If a demonstration and march failed, four members of the "Bring Back Imran Khan Action Committee" would hold a 24-hour hunger-strike on January 11 and the day after, while four more would begin a fast to death, the students said.

The committee, based at the Government College in Lahore, told a news conference that it would start its campaign with a silent demonstration in the city on Friday.

If this failed to bring Imran, who retired from international cricket after last year's World Cup, out of retirement, the students would march to his house the following day.

MCC insures the Ashes for £70,000

The MCC has agreed to send the Ashes to Australia for the Bicentennial Test against England at the end of January. The urn containing the Ashes will be sent to Sydney to be displayed during the match and the MCC are taking no chances, insuring cricket's most famous trophy for around £70,000.

A statement from Lord's yesterday morning confirmed that "providing secure transport arrangements" can be arranged, the Ashes will be sent to Sydney.

The New South Wales Cricket Association has guaranteed the security of the trophy while it is in Australia. It will be the first time the four-inch high urn has left Lord's for 60 years.

MCC secretary, Col. John Stephenson, would not comment on speculation that the Prince of Wales could take the Ashes with him when he goes to Australia on January 24 to attend the country's 200th birthday celebrations.

Nicholas goes off home with new hope in his heart

By Roddy Forsyth

Charlie Nicholas, Arsenal's unfavoured forward, yesterday ended what he called "a spell in the wilderness" at the Highbury club by returning to Scotland to sign for Aberdeen in a £500,000 deal which represents a record purchase for the Pittodrie club. Nicholas, aged 26, who made 19 appearances for Scotland, said that he had turned down offers from European clubs to move north again.

"It's good to be home," he told the throng of reporters at a hastily convened Press conference at Pittodrie soon after he had completed the obligatory medical examination late yesterday afternoon. If he felt any resentment over his recent treatment at Highbury where he had apparently disappeared from the manager George Graham's plans, Nicholas concealed his feelings.

"What's done is done," he said. "I've had a bad spell recently but now that it's over my targets are to rekindle my

career with one of the top sides not just in Scotland but in Europe and to get myself back in the reckoning for the Scotland team."

Nicholas conceded that Arsenal's style of play had not suited his own approach but was careful to insist that he bore some responsibility for his less than successful four-year term in London. As for his popular image as Champagne Charlie, he claimed he was ready to kill off the impression of a playboy player, although he added: "If people insist on calling me by that name I'll just have to live with it."

The Aberdeen manager, Ian Porterfield, said: "This is a great deal for the club. I don't think we're taking a chance on Charlie. We kept tabs on him for some time and now it is the right moment to bring him here. We are a consistent team but we need a proven goalscorer, especially one with the

flair and class he can bring to the side.

"He will attract crowds and give us all an extra lift. If Charlie can produce the goods for us he will be the final piece in our jigsaw and I believe his qualities can help us to win the title."

Asked how Nicholas would be deployed, Porterfield replied with wry humour: "We won't play him in the midfield."

Nicholas is the latest in a lengthy list of signings which has reversed the former flow of talent from north to south across the border. His namesake, Peter Nicholas, a Welshman, joined Aberdeen from Luton Town last summer.

Although clearly short of full match fitness, he will play in Aberdeen's premier division match with Hibernian at Easter Road on Saturday. One interested spectator will be the Scotland coach, Andy Roxburgh. Nicholas last played for Scotland against England in the Rous Cup in May when he came on as a substitute and hit the crossbar with a powerful drive.

John Wark, looking forward to a fresh lease of life with his former club, Ipswich Town, believes his new career in the second division will be short-lived. The former Portman Road favourite, speaking about his £100,000 move from Liverpool to the second division promotion contenders, reckons his exile from the top flight is temporary and that he can play his part in helping restore the glory days to the East Anglian club.



If you want to get ahead, get a hat: Nicholas sporting the maxam at Heathrow yesterday

Wales bid turned down

Zurich (Reuters) — An attempt by Wales to change the qualifying rules for the four-team European groups in the 1990 World Cup has failed through lack of support from other competing nations.

The International Football Federation (FIFA) said yesterday that only three nations from the 12 canvassed in the three four-team groups supported Wales's request for the reintroduction of play-offs between the group runners-up.

The World Cup organizing committee decided last month that the group winners and the

two runners-up with the best results would qualify for the final tournament in Italy. This meant the play-off system used in the qualifying competition for the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico was not being repeated.

Wales meet West Germany, The Netherlands and Finland in their four-team group and face the possibility of failing to qualify for the 1990 finals if they finish as runners-up in the group. All 12 associations have now been notified that the system will remain unchanged.

England to join in the Dublin party

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

England will play an additional international match this season — against Ireland in Dublin on April 23 — as part of the city's 1,000th birthday celebrations.

This will form the major part of the Irish Rugby Football Union's contribution to the festivities and full details about the game will be announced today from the Lord Mayor's Dublin residence, the Mansion House, by Paddy Madigan, the IRFU president.

England, of course, were Ireland's first international opponents, at the Oval in 1875, and were also the first country to play in Dublin, at the Leinster Cricket Ground, Rathmines, the following season.

The match will come a month after the conclusion of this season's five nations championship, in which England play Ireland at Twickenham on March 19, the last weekend of the championship. I understand that full caps will be awarded.

Devon prop's long ban

By a Special Correspondent

A Devon forward with 10 years' county experience, has been suspended for one and a half years after being sent off for the fifth time in his turbulent career. Trevor Harris, the Exeter tight-head prop, will be ineligible for the next 13 months in which rugby is played.

Harris, who had just rejoined Exeter from Bath when he was dismissed for the last time in December, cannot take the field again until September 1, 1989. He is contemplating turning to coaching, or even karate.

Aged 29, Harris denied that

his last dismissal, in a second team game at Totnes, was for stamping. He said yesterday: "I'm still too upset about the hearing to think about what I'm going to do, but I may take up karate."

"I would also love to do a bit of coaching. It would be a waste if I couldn't pass on some of the things I've learned, especially when I was at Bath."

Peter Summers, secretary of Devon's disciplinary committee, said: "Any sentence meted out on Trevor Harris was in strict accordance with the guidelines set out in the RU handbook."

Sibson seeks board consent

Tony Sibson yesterday pleaded for the support of British boxing officials in his world title bid on February 7 at Stafford's Bingley Hall. The Leicester middleweight risks losing his licence if he meets Frank Tate, of the United States, because the British Board is against the International Boxing Federation's (IBF) 15-round format.

Sibson said: "I'll be there not just for myself but for other fighters who could get the same chance in the future. This has got to be sorted out."

Frank Warren, his promoter and manager, says he too will defy the board if necessary. He has already gathered the support of 150 licence holders and their petition, to be presented in the next week, will force the board into calling a special general meeting.

Sibson, the British and Commonwealth champion, added: "I do not want to fall out with the board but this is my third and last chance of

becoming a world champion and I am not going to throw it away because I could lose my licence. I just wish they would support me."

Warren called on the board to ballot members on whether they wanted to become affiliated to the IBF. "I know what the outcome would be," he said. "They say they will not allow 15-round fights on medical grounds but I have not seen any evidence that to go past 12 rounds is suddenly dangerous."

Robert Lee, the IBF president, may be coming to London next week and attempts could be made to resolve the situation. At the moment, the bout will go ahead without the board's blessing.

Warren is heading for further controversy in announcing that Tom Collins, aged 32, the Leeds light heavyweight who took the European crown from Alex Blanchard in

Taylor in argument with referee

By Steve Acteson

Dennis Taylor lost his composure but not the match as he completed a 5-3 victory over Peter Francisco to reach the last eight of the Mercantile Credit Classic snooker tournament in Blackpool yesterday.

Taylor compiled breaks of 42, 73, 67 and 84 to lead 4-1 against the South African opponent, Francisco replying with runs of 40 and 41 to pull up to 4-3.

Leading 65-0 in frame eight, Taylor became embroiled in a prolonged and largely one-sided argument with his fellow Ulsterman, Len Ganley, the referee, who called him for a miss after Taylor had failed to

escape from a snooker behind the brown with four reds remaining.

It was a terribly awkward snooker — indeed Francisco later admitted that he was rightly proud of it — but Taylor's attempt to hit a loose red lying towards the baulk end while using the rest and playing with cheek side was deemed an unworthy effort by Ganley.

Taylor's response was to first argue and then to ask Ganley if he could have a second opinion from the tournament director. Paul Hatherell, having later recovered his composure and his sense of humour, the world No. 8 quipped: "I asked Len if

I could have a second opinion and he said 'yes, it was a miss'."

Taylor also briefly appealed to Francisco for support but to no avail. This was hardly surprising. Taylor failed again with his next attempt from the snooker and then gave away another 12 points in fouls, two in-offs and another snooker, before ultimately going through to the quarter-finals.

Taylor said: "How can you give a miss if the opponent needs snookers. If Len had thought about it for a moment he might not have made that decision and how often do you see me involved in arguments with referees?"

"I've always rated Len as one of the top referees in the

game and still do but I just thought he could have had another think about it."

Stephen Hendry made it a double defeat for the South African family pair when he beat Peter Francisco's uncle, Silvino, also by 5-3 after allowing a 4-1 lead to slip to a 4-3 advantage through overconfidence.

RESULTS: Fifth round: S. Hendry (SCO) 6-5 P. Francisco (SA) 5-3. Frame scores (Francisco first): 68-4, 17-85, 22-71, 52-38, 20-65, 64-55, 101-0, 11-24. Dennis Taylor (W) 6-3 P. Francisco (SA) 5-3. Frame scores (Taylor first): 67-50, 0-38, 91-4, 68-10, 88-10, 16-72, 10-52, 71-24. Hendry's last result: Fourth round: J. Vargo (ENG) beat N. Foulds (ENG) 5-3. Frame scores (Foulds first): 34-63, 60-70, 67-80, 68-20, 62-61, 71-40, 38-46, 0-70. M. Clark (ENG) 6-4 M. Bennett (Wales) 5-2. Frame scores (Bennett first): 54-85, 35-62, 40-58, 58-52, 80-37, 45-63, 14-86.

TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY: 22:7 Celticists v B. West, J. Vargo v J. Foulds, M. Clark v S. Newbury, D. Morris v J. Williams.

Sedykh to be grilled over drugs

Yuri Sedykh, the double Olympic hammer champion, could face a drugs inquiry by the Soviet Union following weekend allegations by Martin Givran, the British record holder.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) is to ask Soviet officials to investigate Givran's claims that Sedykh gave advice on drug-taking in Britain.

"It is our duty to inform the Russian Athletics Federation of the claims and ask if there is any substance in them," John Holt, the IAAF secretary, said. "After all, Sedykh is not only the world record-holder in his event, but also a member of the IAAF athletics commission."

Sedykh was in Britain to lecture in a series of seminars when, allegedly, he was heard by Givran to detail what drugs he was taking, when, and in what quantities.

Seoul acceptances increase

Sofia (Reuters) — Bulgaria and Poland yesterday announced that they will compete in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, reducing still further the likelihood of another Communist-led boycott of the summer Games.

Both countries joined the Soviet Union in refusing to attend the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, as did East Germany and Hungary, both of whom last month said they would go to Seoul. The Soviet Union indicated on Monday it too would compete this year. Yugoslavia also announced its entry yesterday.

Participation of Eastern

bloc countries in Seoul in September had been in doubt since North Korea warned it might call for a communist boycott unless allowed to stage part of the Games.

More than 130 countries have so far accepted the International Olympic Committee's invitation to take part in the Seoul Games. The deadline for acceptances is January 17. Ivan Slavkov, the president of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee, said Bulgaria wanted to enable its athletes to regain contact with the world sports elite after an absence of eight years.

Another decisive factor for Bulgaria's acceptance was its candidacy to stage the 1994 Winter Olympics.

The Bulgarians called on the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, to continue attempts to bring North Korea into the Seoul Games set-up. The 1988 Games constituted a test for the Olympic movement and a question of honour for the IOC, Slavkov said.

Poland's participation was announced by the official news agency, PAP, while Czechoslovakia is expected to follow suit.

Return of yellow card

Rugby League is to bring back the yellow card for a sin bin offence. The decision has been taken following some confusion with signalling.

A League official, David Howes, said last night that they had discussed the position with referees and had decided the yellow card would be a clear indication of the punishment. The cards will be used immediately.

Setting sale

The sale of the National Sailing Centre at Cowes, Isle of Wight, is to go ahead now a suitable buyer has been found, the Sports Council said yesterday.

Huw Davies, the former England Rugby Union full back, will turn out at stand-off half as a favour to Wasps when he returns after a knee injury for Saturday's match at Llanelli.

Davies favour

Daytona Beach (AP) — Mauro Baldi, of Italy, set an unofficial track record speed of 131.5mph at Daytona International Speedway on Monday during practice for the SunBank 24-hour race later this month.

Big post bag

The Australian Rugby Union treasurer, John Howard, is among nearly 70 applicants for the post of full-time secretary of the International Board (AFP reports). The rest of the contenders, from Australasia, Canada, the United States and Britain, are unknown.

No worries

Melbourne (AP) — The Wimbledon tennis champion, Pat Cash, said yesterday that fluff tennis balls were worrying him more than the threat of anti-apartheid protests at the \$1.9 million Australian Open. "The only protesters I'm going to worry about are my opponents on the other side of the net," he said.

Sirch surge

Adelaide (Reuters) — Cornelia Sirch, of East Germany, overwhelmed a class field to win the 200m backstroke by almost a second in the second leg of an international swimming series yesterday.

Svan form

Asarna (AFP) — Gunde Svan, of Sweden, showed Olympic form in winning a classical-style 30km cross-country skiing race here yesterday in 1hr 25min 38sec.

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Indians also suffered Shakoor

From Geoffrey Dean, Calcutta

As the TCCB conducts its inquiry into the events of the Pakistan cricket tour, Sunil Gavaskar, the former Indian captain, talks for the first time about his experiences with the Pakistani umpire Shakoor Rana.

Interesting parallels can be drawn between the unhappy events in the recent Pakistan-England Test in Faisalabad, at which Shakoor Rana officiated, and Sunil Gavaskar's experiences when faced with the same umpire during the series between Pakistan and India in 1979-80.

It was at the same ground, in October 1978, that Shakoor wanted Gavaskar to apologise for swearing at him (as Gavaskar admits, they were "bad words, boy were they bad"). When Gavaskar refused, saying that he would "rather go home than apologise", Shakoor himself refused to come out to umpire on the final day.

The bad feeling in the Test had originated after Sarfraz, the fast bowler who was not known for his reticence, had kept up a "torrent of abuse" at the Indian batsmen, who were chasing a large Pakistan first innings score of over 500.

Gavaskar explains: "I ignored Sarfraz for most of the time as we had a tough job on our hands. But after he abused Viswanath, who was batting brilliantly, I asked Shakoor what he was going to do about Sarfraz's bad language. I got another burst from Sarfraz for that query and Shakoor just put his hands on his hips and laughed."

Gavaskar did not react to Shakoor's behaviour at this point but when, at the start of Pakistan's second innings, Mohinder Amarnath was given a warning (and not a friendly caution) for running on the wicket in the course of his very first delivery, Gavaskar decided that "this was a bit too much to take" for, while batting, he had seen both Sarfraz and Mohinder follow through on the same area as Amarnath, and they had not even received a caution.

Gavaskar continues: "I ran from second slip to Bedi at mid-off, asking him if he realized that Amarnath had been issued a warning. Bedi, perhaps knowing the match was petering out to a draw, just shrugged his shoulders. Whereupon I asked Shakoor whether it was an official warning or just a caution that all umpires give to a bowler when he is running close to the prohibited area."

"All I got was a terse answer to go back to my position. I repeated the query, although Mohinder and Sarfraz had got away with worse, and I got an even terser answer. That was it. I let Shakoor have exactly what Sarfraz had said to us."

The game continued after Gavaskar's outburst for the remainder of that day but the following morning, Shakoor refused to umpire without an apology from Gavaskar.

The game did eventually get under way after a 13-minute delay, when Gavaskar shook hands with Shakoor, but without proffering an apology.

Gavaskar, who retired from the international arena after the World Cup, having scored more Test match runs than any other batsman, did not report him or Mike Gatting to the authorities and leave it to them to take action.

He is also perplexed as to why Shakoor did not register his objection immediately after play finished, rather than waiting until the following morning. In Gavaskar's opinion, "it must have been a case of realizing that an Indian had abused a Pakistani, whilst in Gavaskar's case he realized that if he could not fashion a Pakistani victory, the least he could do was save the day for his country."

By way of a controversial conclusion, Gavaskar ends thus: "I am not surprised that the whole of Pakistan is proud of Shakoor. In the history of Pakistan cricket, he will rank along with Hanif, Zaheer, Imran and others for his 'contributions' to Pakistan cricket."

The bad feeling in the Shakoor-Gavaskar relationship did not, however, end with the handshake at Faisalabad. For in the next Test match, at Lahore, Gavaskar had reached 97 when he was given out by Shakoor, caught behind at silly point, a decision he considers one of the worst he encountered in his lengthy Test career.

Kauf with arm

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